

Women's rights row in Morocco

RABAT (R) — A statement by a cabinet minister that Muslim women may not hold high government office has sparked a row in Morocco. Under banner front page headlines, Saturday editions of two Rabat newspapers published by an opposition party denounced Abdelhak Alami, minister of Islamic affairs, for remarks made in a sermon in the presence of King Hassan. "In Islam, to conform with Koranic law, (political) power cannot be entrusted to a woman," Alami said in his address at the royal palace April 5, during the Holy Month of Ramadan. The King's Party said in a statement in L'Ophion and Al Alam dallas that Alami had contradicted the constitution, which guaranteed that "all citizens have equal access to public functions and employment under the same conditions." The minister's remark "violated the principles of equality between men and women in their rights and obligations," the party said. "There is no place for retrograde ideas foreign to Islam," it added. The papers also attacked Alami for suggesting that consultative bodies could pass legislation.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Volume 15 Number 4377

AMMAN SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 1990 SHAWWAL 4, 1410

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Arafat ends N. Yemen visit

SANAA (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, seeking Arab support for a call for an Arab League summit, has flown to Somalia from North Yemen, Radio Sanaa said Saturday. He quoted Arafat as saying on his departure Friday night that he had talks with President Ali Abdullah Saleh "on an extraordinary Arab summit meeting in Baghdad to review dangers facing the Arab World."

U.S. to stop funding if PLO joins WHO

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States would stop contributing to the World Health Organisation (WHO) if the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) were admitted as a member, the State Department said Friday. The PLO formally asked for full membership April 12 in Geneva, three weeks before the scheduled meeting of the World Health Assembly May 7-18. U.S. law mandates cutting off funding for any United Nations organisation that grants full membership to the PLO or any other group that "does have the internationally recognised attributes of statehood," States Department spokesman Richard Boucher said at a briefing.

Pope names veteran to Jerusalem post

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II Saturday named a prelate with long diplomatic experience in Latin America as the church's representative in the Holy Land. Archbishop Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo, a 64-year-old Italian, was appointed to the post of apostolic delegate in Jerusalem and Palestine. Lanza di Montezemolo has served in Latin America since 1977, first in Nicaragua and up to now in Uruguay.

Crowds attack police near Cairo

CAIRO (R) — Two Egyptian policemen were badly beaten by people protesting at the death of a four-year-old boy knocked down by a police car Saturday. Police said the car, hit by a 10-year-old boy, was on a street in the Nile-side town of Hida near Beni Suef, south of Cairo. In the resulting clash, angry residents attacked a police captain and a major, who were taken to hospital. There was no immediate information on their injuries. Police said they arrested 25 people.

Algerian group assails ban on veils

ALGIERS (R) — An Islamic fundamentalist leader has appealed for the prosecution of those responsible for a ban on the wearing of veils or headscarves by the staff of a military hospital in Algiers. Abbas Madani, leader of the Islamic Salvation Front, Saturday denounced the military hospital's decision to order women staff to take off their veils and men to shave off their beards. In a statement, delivered to Reuters, Madani said the people who ordered the ban should be tried because the decision was "against Algerian Muslim people's values... and against the constitution." Veils and headscarves are the subject of controversy in other Algerian hospitals. The local press reported a gynaecologist had received threatening letters when he banned his staff from wearing them.

Riyadh denies Iraq used its computers

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabia Saturday refuted reports that it allowed Baghdad access to the kingdom's supercomputer systems to help the Iraqi missile development programme. "The report is not true at all since the computer system in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is used for civilian purposes, especially related to petroleum," said an official statement, distributed by the Saudi Press Agency. The supercomputer, a Cray-2, was installed at the end of 1989, at Saudi Aramco, the government-run company that operates the giant oil industry in the kingdom.

Holy Land churches reopen after protest

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Christian shrines and churches reopened Saturday morning after a 24-hour closure to protest of a Jewish settlement in the Old City of Jerusalem. Leaders of nine major Christian sects closed their churches Friday after the Greek Orthodox Church locked the gates to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the site of Jesus' crucifixion.

The Greek Orthodox Church owns the 72-room St. John's Hospice that 150 Jewish settlers moved into on April 11 during Easter celebrations. The church says that the four-building complex was illegally leased to the settlers.

Israel's supreme court ordered the settlers out by Tuesday but will allow 20 guards and maintenance staff to remain in the building pending a final ruling on the tenancy dispute.

Church leaders plan more protests if the settlers are not evicted.

"If the situation continues to be critical, we will have to close churches again, hold more special prayers and appeal to the international community to pressure Israel to evict the settlers," Lutfi Laham, the Roman Catholic Bishop, said.

Friday was the first time the Church of Holy Sepulcher closed its doors in 800 years.

George Hinthman, secretary to Armenian Patriarch Torghom Manogian, said the Christian community was determined to

have its rights recognised.

"The closure of churches and houses of worship in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth and the Galilee was never done, not even in the darkest conditions. This shows how serious we are," Hinthman said.

The leaders of the Christian community in Jerusalem called for a special prayer for the city in all churches Sunday.

In the Gaza Strip, two days after soldiers opened fire into a crowd of 4,000 Palestinians in Jabalia refugee camp, Arab sources reported three serious injuries.

Soldiers shot a 15-year-old Palestinian in the head Friday night, wounding him seriously, Arab sources said Saturday.

Two other Palestinians were shot in a clash with soldiers in the Shati refugee camp in Gaza, hospital officials said.

Palestinians throughout the occupied territories stopped their cars, lit the headlights and honked their horns for five minutes Saturday to honour those expelled by the Israeli occupation authorities since the beginning of the uprising.

A Palestinian group has accused Israel of massacring Palestinians and called on the U.N. Security Council to intervene.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) said four Palestinians were killed and more than 150 injured by Israeli troops during the demon-

stration at the Jabalia camp Thursday.

Reports from Israel said at least four people were killed and at least 140 wounded in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"This massacre and the terrorist Israeli escalation came after Israel's failure to stop the Palestinian uprising," the DFLP said in a statement issued in Damascus late Friday.

The DFLP said the Israeli action Thursday "was encouraged by a U.S. House of Representatives resolution recognising Jerusalem as the capital of Israel."

It called on the Security Council to intervene directly "to put an end to the repressive Israeli measures."

It said the Palestinian people were determined to continue their revolt "until Israeli forces are crushed and an independent Palestinian state is established."

Sabbath: Non-Jews threatened

Roman Catholic Patriarch Michel Sabbah of Jerusalem said Saturday the future of the city's non-Jewish communities was threatened by Israel's aggressive settlement policy.

"I would say that here the future of the non-Jewish population is in danger," Sabbah said. "The Palestinian population, which includes Christians, has been left without any protection, and there's the

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Gorbachev, Assad meet in Moscow

MOSCOW (AP) — President Hafez Al Assad of Syria met Saturday with President Mikhail Gorbachev for talks expected to focus Soviet-Syrian relations and the Middle East situation, TASS reported. The official Soviet News Agency said Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov attended the first part of the discussion, then left the two leaders to talk one-on-one.

"It is expected that great attention will be devoted to issue of Soviet-Syrian cooperation, joint actions on the international arena and the Middle East," TASS said.

Details of the discussions were not immediately available. TASS said Assad is to visit Moscow for two days and that foreign ministers of the two countries will sign a protocol on consultations. It gave no further details of the delegation's itinerary.

Protest, scuffles greet Iranian minister at U.N.

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Three demonstrators shouting slogans against the Tehran government disrupted the start of a U.N. press conference Friday by Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

They were immediately subdued by security guards at United Nations headquarters in New York.

The minister was unscathed although a member of his party was hit by an egg. Two other eggs were seen on the floor nearby. "He's a torturer. Take him out of the United Nations. He does

not represent the Iranian people," one of the intruders screamed at Velayati as U.N. and U.S. State Department security guards closed in.

A U.N. spokeswoman said the three intruders, claiming to be Iranians living legally in the United States, had been handed over to the "competent authorities." She did not know whether this meant the New York police or federal authorities.

Angola, rebels launch direct peace negotiations

LISBON (Agencies) — Angola's Marxist government and Jonas Savimbi's U.S.-backed rebels have met face-to-face and set a date for resuming talks on ending their 15-year civil war, Portugal said Saturday.

The two sides met Tuesday and Wednesday in Evora, 150 kilometres east of Lisbon, in the first direct contacts since the collapse of their truce brokered June 22 by Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko in Gbadolite, Zaire.

Portuguese Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Jose Manuel Durao Barroso told a news conference the meeting had the direct blessing of Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and of Savimbi.

Durao Barroso also said the meeting was marked by a "positive" atmosphere.

But when asked if either side had made any concessions, he said: "Frankly their positions are still very far apart... the path to peace is Angola is still a long one, a very long one."

The announcement came as an

anti-climax following widespread reports in the Portuguese media that a date for more substantive negotiations at a higher level was to be announced.

Angolan Foreign Minister Pedro de Castro van-Dunen, who is in Portugal, and rebel officials had said they expected peace negotiations to begin within a few days.

Durao Barroso noted that fighting was continuing and no ceasefire had been arranged. He also mentioned two basic points of disagreement.

These were the government's demand for recognition by National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) and UNITA's demand for an immediate multi-party system.

The Angolan government had set out its plan for peace, UNITA had reacted directly to some points and promised to prepare an overall reaction.

The Marxist Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) seized power shortly after Angola's independence.

India warns Pakistan

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — India Saturday warned Pakistan it would not tolerate infringement of its sovereignty in Kashmir, and a government spokesman said he would not rule out cross-border raids to eliminate guerrilla camps.

"There will be no compromise on the measures necessary to protect our integrity," the government said in a prepared statement read by Foreign Ministry spokesman Aftab Seth.

Asked whether India was prepared to send its troops across the frontier to eliminate any guerrilla training camps in Pakistani-controlled territory, Seth said: "We rule nothing out."

He said Indian-Pakistani relations would not improve until "there is credible evidence on the ground that Pakistan is desisting from its abetment of terror and violence."

Seth refused to set any time limit on how long India would wait for Pakistan to cease its alleged support for Kashmiri separatists. "India is very patient and tolerant," he said.

More than 300 people, have been killed since the separatist uprising exploded in mid-January and Seth repeated India's charge, denied by Islamabad, that Pakistan was behind it.

"The internal situation in Kashmir is the creation of Pakistan-supported and assisted terrorists," Seth said.

"We would wish to remind the government of Pakistan that it is its responsibility to prevent infiltrations taking place from their side."

The foreign ministers of the two countries met in New York last week and agreed to cool a war of words which had led to fears of a fourth Indo-Pakistani war since independence in 1947.

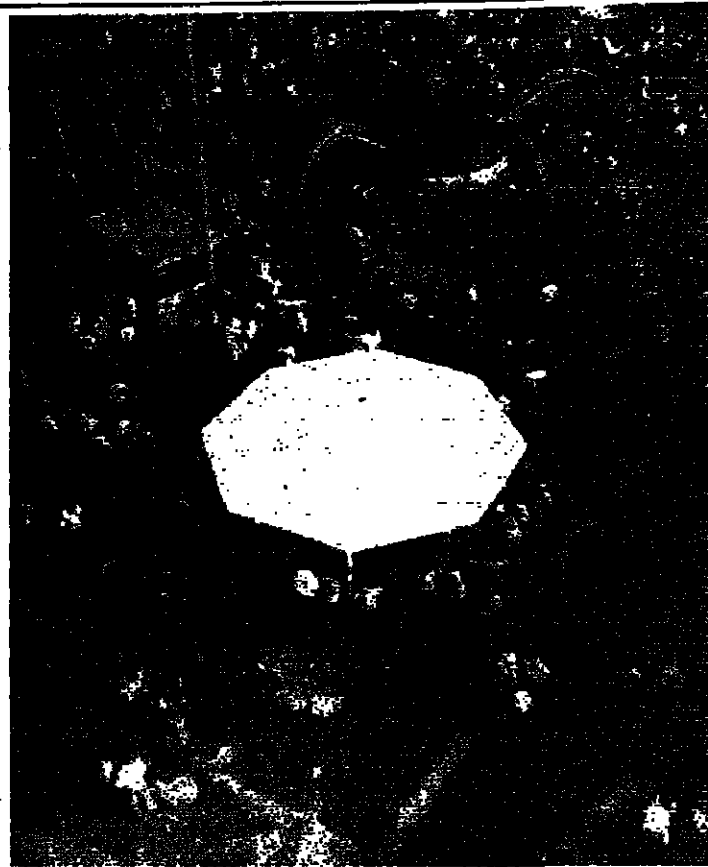
Two of the wars have been over Kashmir, one-third of which Pakistan controls as Azad (free) Kashmir. The rest, Jammu and Kashmir, is India's only state with a Muslim majority.

Indian officials said Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral told Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan that the test of Islamabad's denials that it backed the insurgency was to stop reinforcements and arms reaching the Kashmir Valley.

They said the most critical period would start around mid-May, when snow melts on the high Himalayan passes from Pakistani Kashmir into the valley.



CHEERFUL 'EID: Two scenes from the busy recreation areas of Amman during the 'Eid al-Fitr holiday. The country goes



back to work today after a four-day holiday (Photos by Youssef Al 'Alam)

EC summit sets move to political union

DUBLIN (Agencies) — European Community (EC) leaders, in harmony over German unification and support for Eastern Europe, agreed Saturday to steer the 12-nation bloc towards greater political integration.

But British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, while backing a plan to ask EC foreign ministers to study areas for reform, spelled out bluntly what the limits must be to the political union proposed by France and West Germany.

"Most people in Britain interpret the message from (Chancellor Helmut) Kohl and (President Francois) Mitterrand as a call to create a single unitary state in Europe by 1993," British officials quoted her as saying.

"They ask what would happen to the monarchy, to the queen, to a parliament that is over 700 years old," she added.

Despite calls from Kohl and Mitterrand this week for the summit to set a timetable for political union, the leaders deferred a

decision on whether and when to hold a conference to negotiate changes to the EC's treaties.

"We may not set the (conference) dates at this meeting. It was never really intended that we should. It's very likely the date will be set at the next Dublin meeting in June," said Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey, who chaired the talks.

According to a draft of the final summit statement made available to Reuters, the leaders concluded:

"We are confident that German unification — the result of the freely expressed wish on the part of the German people — will be a positive factor in the development of Europe as a whole and of the community in particular."

They also approved a plan from the EC's Executive Commission to provide financial aid for the new democracies of Eastern Europe and build closer poli-

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Aoun forces, Geagea militia observe truce

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Rival Christian forces skirmished with automatic rifles in east Beirut and observed a 21-hour ceasefire in the Christian hinterland north of the city Saturday to enable residents to check on their property.

Police said a man was killed and another was wounded in an exchange of sniper fire across east Beirut between rebellious General Michel Aoun's troops and militiamen of Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces.

Police said an anti-personnel mine exploded as children were playing in an empty lot in east Beirut's Aoun-held district of 'Ain Rummaneh, killing two children.

The inconclusive showdown for mastery of the Christian enclave has killed 919 people and wounded 2,442 since it broke out Jan. 30.

Meanwhile, a truce was reported holding on the eastern flank of the Kesrouan province Christian hinterland as civilians flooded the contested resorts of Kleiat and Daraya to check on their damaged houses.

The ceasefire, which went into effect at 9 a.m. (0700 GMT) was mediated by Maronite Catholic monk Bulos Naaman, a member of a three-man independent mediation committee that had sponsored at least 20 abortive ceasefire calls to halt the three-

month confrontation.

An Arab mediator in Lebanon's civil strife said he found statements by Aoun during a television link-up not encouraging for the future of peace efforts.

Speaking on Algerian Television from the Baabda presidential palace in Beirut Friday night, Aoun denied he was responsible for the failure of a peace plan drafted in Taif, Saudi Arabia, under Arab League auspices.

He said the Taif plan "collapsed on its own because it did not deal with the essence of the problem, which is the Lebanese-Syrian-Israeli triangle."

Lebanon needed "a start of the withdrawal of struggle on its soil and aid to help it recover its security and to preserve its national identity," he added.

Lakhdar Ibrahim, special envoy of the Arab League, said on the same TV programme Aoun's statements contradicted an encouraging letter the general had sent previously to the committee.

Speaking via a satellite link-up from Paris, Ibrahim said: "Aoun sent us a letter with his viewpoint and there were encouraging things in it."

Aoun rival Geagea has recognised in writing the Taif plan, a London-based newspaper said Saturday.

Moscow suggests Lithuania compromise

MOSCOW (Agencies) — President Mikhail Gorbachev's spokesman said Saturday the Kremlin was not insisting that Lithuania rescind its declaration of independence and suggested freeing it instead.

The centre, Moscow, the president, does not insist on rescinding, denouncing the declaration of independence. What should take place is that they should not insist on its implementation," Arkady Maslennikov told Western reporters after a news conference.

"They can find ways of freeing it, or putting a moratorium, and returning to the constitution," he added.

"They may change it, whatever they do with that declaration it belongs to them, but we cannot start with that declaration as a legal basis. It is illegal."

The statement was the clearest

sign yet that the rebel Baltic republic need to tear up the March 11 declaration to start talks with Moscow about its future.

Kremlin officials generally have demanded that Lithuania "return to the status of March 10," without elaborating.

Meanwhile, the blockade Moscow is employing against Lithuania was broadened to include coal, TASS reported Saturday.

TASS said coal supplies had been stopped because Lithuania had not paid for previous shipments.

Vilnius Radio broadcast Saturday that it called a secret list of items on Moscow's blockade. In addition to oil and gas, the list contained about 35 textile industries, vehicles and spare parts, and foodstuffs including coffee, cocoa beans, nuts, tea, vegetable

fats, fish, wine and vodka.

Maslennikov, who recently became Gorbachev's personal spokesman, also said he felt a Franco-German call to Lithuania to seek a compromise with Moscow was closer to the Soviet position than that of officials in Vilnius.

"We consider it a kind of appeal for reason, against extremism. And extremism is the policy of the present Lithuanian leaders," he said.

The joint letter from French President Francois Mitterrand and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl to Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis called for talks between Vilnius and Moscow and the temporary suspension of the effects of recent decisions linked with Lithuania's bid for independence.

Prumskiene said she interpreted it as a suggestion that the decision

taken by parliament after March 11 be suspended.

When asked whether Moscow would be satisfied with a temporary suspension of the declaration of independence, Maslennikov replied: "Yes, you may say so, without specifying what temporary. Because some would say two weeks... how long would they need to sort out all these questions?"

Moscow is not insisting on any particular form for the Lithuanian rollback, he said.

"If they fly or walk (to Moscow) or send a telegram or send people, it is up to them to decide. We are not prescribing, we are only asking them to return to the basic position on the law and the constitution of this country."

Until the Lithuanians do this, the standoff with Moscow will continue, he added.

لوتنا من اصل

Morocco slams U.S. resolution on Jerusalem

RABAT (R) — Morocco Saturday criticised the U.S. Congress for affirming that Jerusalem is and should be the capital of Israel, saying it had taken an anti-Arab and anti-Islamic stand.

The Moroccan Foreign Ministry said the resolutions "contradicted the official position of the United States government which considers East Jerusalem is territory occupied by Israel and thinks its final status must be determined by an international agreement."

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the resolution last Tuesday, echoing one passed in March by the Senate.

Both bodies have "adopted a hostile position that defies Arab and Islamic sentiments," by voting resolutions on the issue, the ministry said in a statement carried by the Moroccan News Agency (MAF).

Although the resolutions did not constrain the U.S. administration, they "contribute to the degradation of the situation in occupied territories and aggravation of tensions in the region in general, by encouraging Israel to persist in its rejection of all peace efforts."

Morocco, which has close ties with Washington, is the latest Arab League member state to protest at the Congress resolutions which the ministry said "aroused profound regret and great disquiet."

U.S. lawmakers provoked a flood of Arab anger Wednesday and jeopardised the imminent release of an American hostage from Beirut by supporting Israel's claim.

Egypt, Jordan, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the Arab League's U.N. ambassador, and Libya, all strongly criticised the U.S. House of Representatives for its non-binding resolution.

The wording was similar to one approved by the U.S. Senate on March 22.

In Beirut, Hussein Musawi, a leader of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God), told the Voice of the People radio: "The American decision... will complicate the issue of hostages... I expect the kidnappers not to release any more hostages."

Musawi is a senior leader of Hizbollah, believed in the West to be the umbrella under which pro-Iranian groups holding 16 Western hostages operate. It has always denied links to hostage-taking.

The Hizbollah leader told Vis-

news, the international television news agency: "We hope they will not release any hostages."

One group, the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine (IILP) freed U.S. Professor Robert Pollhill Sunday and sources in Iran and pro-Iranian sources in Beirut had said they expected another American to be freed by Friday.

In Cairo, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday of the U.S. House's action: "Such decisions... do not help solving existing regional problems but complicate them further."

Egypt has been working with the U.S. government for the past nine months to organise the first direct peace talks between Palestinians and Israel. Egypt signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979 and is the only Arab state which has diplomatic ties with the Jewish state.

Bassam Abu Sharif, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, said: "It is an irresponsible act because it damages the credibility of American legislative institutions and their ability to play a positive or constructive role in the peace process in the Middle East."

Jordan's Foreign Minister Marwan Qassem told the Jordan News Agency Petra: "Such a resolution is a handicap (to U.S. peace efforts) and will have a negative impact on the American administration's outlook to realise a just and comprehensive peace."

"Even if such a resolution is non-binding to the American administration, it will give Israel legitimacy and pretext to continue its aggression."

Clovis Maksoud, the Arab League's ambassador to the United Nations and the United States, has called the House resolution reckless and irresponsible.

In Damascus, a spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine said in a statement Wednesday that the resolution "constitutes a serious development in the American position backing Israel's intransigent policy."

"It also violates the international stand considering Jerusalem an inseparable part of occupied Arab territories."



Rebel fighters file past the body of an Ethiopian soldier killed during clashes

Ethiopia reports new rebel front in Eritrea

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Two main rebel movements in northern Ethiopia have joined forces to open a new front in Eritrea province, a presidential advisory body said Saturday.

The council of state said in a statement the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) had helped its ally, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), to open the new front in the south of the province.

The statement did not say exactly where the new front was, but said it had aggravated matters in Eritrea where rebel forces seized the strategic Red Sea port of Massawa in February.

But spokesmen in London for both rebel groups told Reuters in Nairobi there had been no link-up to launch a new front.

"It is another false allegation."

There is no such involvement of the TPLF forces in Eritrean land," TPLF spokesman Tewelde Gabru said by telephone.

EPLF spokesman Yemane Gebre Meskel said his group's forces had inflicted heavy casualties on government forces in attacks on the garrison towns of Senafe and Adi Keyeh in southern Eritrea Wednesday and Thursday, but gave no details.

The EPLF is fighting for the independence of Eritrea, a former Italian colony, while the TPLF is fighting from its base in Tigray to establish a broader-based government in Ethiopia as a whole. The two groups coordinate their military strategy and sometimes give each other military assistance.

Sharon wants defence post in new government

TEL AVIV (R) — Ariel Sharon, hawkish architect of Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, said Saturday he hopes to be defence minister in a narrow right-wing government so he can crush a 28-month-old Palestinian uprising.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of the Likud Party received a mandate from President Chaim Herzog Thursday to form the next government and said he intended to form a narrow coalition backed by small ultra-nationalist and religious parties.

Sharon said in an interview with army radio he hoped for "a role in which I could bring quiet and restore security — the defence minister. I would say it's the most important position I could fill in this government."

He said he would also accept the Foreign or Finance Ministry.

"I am convinced that in the

Foreign Ministry, I could take a new approach. I believe in my ability to make peace with Arabs, real peace — not in the peace plan that the unity government had."

Sharon blasted former Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin of the Labour Party for his failure to end the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and said only a strong right-wing government could bring real peace to the region.

He served as defence minister from 1981 and orchestrated Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon to drive out Palestinian guerrillas who had set up operations to attack Israel in the south.

He was forced to resign in 1983 after an Israeli commission of inquiry found him indirectly responsible for the Sabra and Shatila massacres.

Chad reports 736 rebels killed in recent fighting

PARIS (AP) — Chad officials said Friday that 736 Libyan-backed rebels died in recent fighting and noted France has promised to keep a strengthened military contingent in its former colony to support government troops.

The casualty figures released by the Chadian embassy in Paris listed 736 rebels killed and 328 taken prisoner in attacks on April 18 and 20 on two columns of the Libyan-backed Islamic Legion.

Chad's high command also announced government losses for the first time, saying 47 soldiers had been killed and 102 wounded.

The legion operates along Chad's eastern border from bases inside the lightly populated Darfur province of neighbouring Sudan, where the Khartoum government exercises virtually no control.

President Hissene Habre's government accuses Libya of arming and training the rebels. Libya denies the charges.

Foreign Minister Asselkhe Ibn Omar announced earlier Friday at a news conference in Paris that he had received assurances from France that 1,200 French troops will remain in his country indefinitely.

Ibn Omar said that France authorities understood the threat of the continuing Libyan effort to destabilise Chad. The two African countries have long-running dispute over a northern border territory called the Aouzou Strip.

"If the Libyans pretend to reduce their military effort, it is mostly to put the international vigilance to sleep," he contended.

"They continue to want to impose their will on Chad... despite their agreement in Algiers

Environment ministers adopt Nicosia Charter

NICOSIA (AP) — A conference of Mediterranean ministers adopted an action plan Saturday designed to clean up the environment of their sea by the year 2025.

"This is the very first time that specific long term objectives have been initiated," said Laurans Jan Brinkhorst, director-general of the environment division of the European Commission.

He said that the EC, which organised the three-day conference, will do everything in its power for the implementation of the plan, dubbed the Nicosia Charter, which was adopted by the conference.

"The result of this conference is a new synergy among the partners of the Mediterranean," Brinkhorst told a press conference at the end of the three-day meeting attended by representatives from 15 littoral states, 10 at ministerial level.

He said the Commission undertook, in conjunction with the World Bank and the European Investment Bank (EIB), to provide 1.2 billion ECU (\$1.49 billion) to assist the littoral states' efforts within the framework of

the Nicosia Charter.

Part of this assistance will go toward the establishment of sewage facilities for 25 major Mediterranean coastal cities, as called for by the charter. The littoral states themselves have undertaken to provide such facilities for 75 other smaller coastal towns, Brinkhorst said.

These cities will be chosen at later stage following consultations between the EC and individual governments.

The charter also called for the creation of "at least 25 controlled deposit sites" to deal with toxic and dangerous wastes by January 1993.

It added that 20 Mediterranean ports, "to be chosen on the basis of an objective study, will be provided with equipment for ballast and bilge water treatment by Jan. 1993."

An "additional substantial number of other ports" will be provided with similar facilities by Jan. 1, 1995, it said.

The emphasis on sea-pollution appeared to be based on the findings of a joint report submitted to the conference by the World Bank and the EIB, which

participated in the discussions together with the United Nations Environment Programme.

The bank report declared that "the environmental degradation of the Mediterranean basin is already severe and is worsening by the day in many areas. In certain cases it could become irreversible."

It added that to "bring this degradation to a halt, the Mediterranean countries must find remedies for the underlying causes: Harmful economic policies, weak regulatory and administrative systems and insufficient popular awareness and political resolve."

"It is a new beginning for the Mediterranean basin," said Andreas Gavrilides, the Cypriot minister of natural resources, who acted as host for the conference.

He said the new charter was designed to speed up the implementation of decisions adopted at two previous Mediterranean conferences, the 1975 Barcelona Mediterranean Action Plan and the 1985 Geneva Declaration.

"In this context it was recognised that coastal states, and particularly those most economically developed, shared a collective responsibility to preserve, protect and improve the Mediterranean," said a final conference communique.

It added that "a consensus has been achieved on the necessity to mobilise all available resources, in order to achieve by the year 2025 at the latest, a clear Mediterranean environment, compatible with sustainable development."

In addition to the sewage plans for 100 coastal cities the Nicosia Charter also listed the following priorities:

— The adoption by each government environmental management strategies and impact studies and relevant legislation, with particular emphasis on the "integrated management of coastal zones."

— The adoption of economic and fiscal incentives and disincentives to improve environment management.

— Permanent monitoring of the Mediterranean ecosystem and reinforced surveillance of maritime traffic at national level by Jan. 1995.

Kidnappers give medical assistance to hostages

NICOSIA (AP) — Despite their obsession with security, the Shi'ite Muslim militants holding Western hostages in Lebanon sometimes bring in doctors from Iranian-funded hospitals to care for ailing captives, informed sources say.

American Robert Pollhill, freed Sunday, suffered from diabetes. But despite weight loss, a growth on his vocal cords and malnourishment during his 39 months in captivity, he clearly was given medication.

"The hostages have common health problems such as diabetes, high blood pressure or high levels of uric acid," said a Shi'ite physician, who spoke on condition of

anonymity.

"Medicines for such health problems are not a problem. They can be obtained anywhere in Lebanon," he told the Associated Press in Nicosia, Cyprus.

West German businessman Rudolf Cordes, freed by another Shi'ite faction Sept. 12, 1988, after 605 days in captivity, said he often considered committing suicide while in captivity. His jailers gave him five tranquilisers a day and brought in a doctor to examine him.

In January last year, one group was reported to be seeking a cardiologist to examine an unidentified hostage who was believed to be suffering from a severe heart condition.

It is believed that at least one and maybe two captives have died from neglect.

Frenchman Michel Seurat, a researcher, died of a severe illness believed to be hepatitis in December 1985, released hostages reported.

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

New British envoy arrives in Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Britain's newly-appointed ambassador to Lebanon, Arabist David Tatham, arrived in Beirut Saturday to take up his post, diplomats said. Tatham was head of the Falkland Islands Department at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London. His predecessor, John Allan Ramsay, left Lebanon two weeks ago for a new post in Sudan. The British embassy is located in Christian east Beirut where rival Maronite forces have been fighting a sporadic war since Jan. 31 in which more than 1,000 people have been killed. At least 20 people were killed last Wednesday in the most recent outbreak of inter-Christian fighting when troops loyal to Major-General Michel Aoun battled Samar Geagea's Lebanese Forces militiamen for six hours in east Beirut and outlying towns.

Middle East basks in heatwave

CAIRO (R) — Much of the Middle East basked in a heatwave Saturday as Muslims celebrated the Eid Al Fitr feast, but weathermen said temperatures were set to tumble. Iraqis sweltered and Egyptians baked in 35 degrees Centigrade (95 Fahrenheit), six or seven degrees Centigrade above seasonal norms, while Gulf countries steamed in up to 37 degrees Centigrade (99 Fahrenheit). But Muslims marking the end of the fasting month of Ramadan, and weathermen said the worst of the heat was over. Thunderstorms were forecast to dampen a heatwave in Syria Saturday and temperatures in Cairo were already lower than Friday's 40 Centigrade (105 Fahrenheit), when the blistering sun emptied normally teeming streets. Temperatures in C. was, a haven for north Europeans in search of the sun, were down from several days of up to 35 degrees Centigrade to a normal 25 — still about 10 degrees warmer than London or Berlin.

Rafsanjani sends message to Bahrain

MANAMA (AP) — An Iranian envoy delivered a message Saturday from Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani to the Emir, Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, dealing with bilateral relations and regional issues, a Gulf News Agency reported. The message was delivered by Mohammad Ali Bishara, Iran's Foreign Ministry undersecretary, in a meeting that was also attended by Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Ibn Mubarak Al Khalifa. The agency gave no other details. Bahrain is a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which also groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Oman. All but Saudi Arabia have gradually improved relations with their Persian neighbour since a U.N.-sponsored ceasefire took hold in the Gulf in August 1988, halting eight years of war between Iran and Iraq. Saudi Arabia had severed ties with Iran in April 1988, accusing the Iranian rebels of terrorism and subversion. Bahrain and other GCC members are reportedly willing to use their good offices to reconcile Tehran and Riyadh.

U.S. arraigns 2 for smuggling

BALTIMORE (AP) — An American and a West German were arraigned for allegedly trying to ship a sophisticated radar system to Kuwait, a frequent transshipment point for arms and military equipment to other Middle Eastern countries, authorities said. Saul Lieberman, of Hackensack, New Jersey, and Herbert Hoffmann, of Frankfurt, West Germany, were arrested April 11 and indicted April 17 for alleged violation of the arms export control act, money laundering and conspiracy, said U.S. Attorney Brockmidge L. Wilcox. Hoffmann, 50, was in custody Friday, awaiting trial. Lieberman, 54, was released on a \$10,000 secured bond. Wilcox said, if convicted, Lieberman and Hoffmann face maximum penalties of violation of the arms export control act, 20 years in prison and a \$500,000 fine for money laundering, and five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine for conspiracy.

Egypt cracks down on fundamentalists

CAIRO (AP) — Police forces have killed a Muslim extremist and arrested 10 others in the southern province of Fayoum, the state-owned newspaper Al Gomhuria reported. The newspaper did not identify the victim but said he was killed in a shoot out with police forces combating cities and villages of Fayoum province in search for extremists. Fayoum is 96 kilometres southwest of Cairo. It said he resisted police by firing on them and was killed consequently at the village of Ibsahaw. The crackdown on fundamentalists followed a week of simmering violence involving attacks on a church and Christian-owned property. He is the second fundamentalist to be killed by police in the same area. Security forces Monday killed Ahmad Sayed Abdallah in an exchange of fire. Abdallah was suspected of taking part in the bomb attack on the church in the Fayoum village of Sanhour which resulted in the death of a policeman and the injury of two other guards. Fayoum has been a centre of violence by Muslim militants for years. It is the hometown of Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, a blind preacher widely acknowledged as leader of Al Gamaa Al Islamiya, the Muslim group. They demand immediate implementation of Sharia, the 1,400-year-old Islamic religious and ethical code.

Libya denies links to Liberian rebels

ROME (AP) — Libya has denied a claim by Liberia's President Samuel Doe that it is supporting rebels seeking his overthrow. The Libyan News Agency (IANA) carried a statement from the Libyan Foreign Ministry saying the Liberian president had started to look for external resources "to mislead public opinion in his country and outside it" following the growth of the rebel movement and "to salvage his rule from crumbling, which is an old and ancient political trick which cannot deceive anyone anymore." The agency was monitored in Rome. Doe's troops have been fighting rebels in Nimba County, near the Ivory Coast frontier, since they invaded the West African country on Dec. 24. Earlier this week, the Liberian president said opposition leaders in the United States are joining with the Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso and Libya to support the rebels.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children programme
17:10	Football
18:00	News summary in Arabic
18:25	Local programme
18:40	Cultural programme
19:00	Local programme
19:40	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
21:30	Arabic series
22:30	Programme review
21:40	Local programme
22:40	Varities programme
23:00	News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
16:35	Cartoon films
17:55	Des Caffres et de Lesitres
18:15	L'ecole de fars
19:00	News in French
19:15	Anjoud'hui en France
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Varities programme
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Who's the Boss?
21:10	World of Puppetry
22:00	News in English
22:20	Agatha Christie's Poirot
PRAYER TIMES	
03:26	Fajr
04:51	(Sunrise) Duha

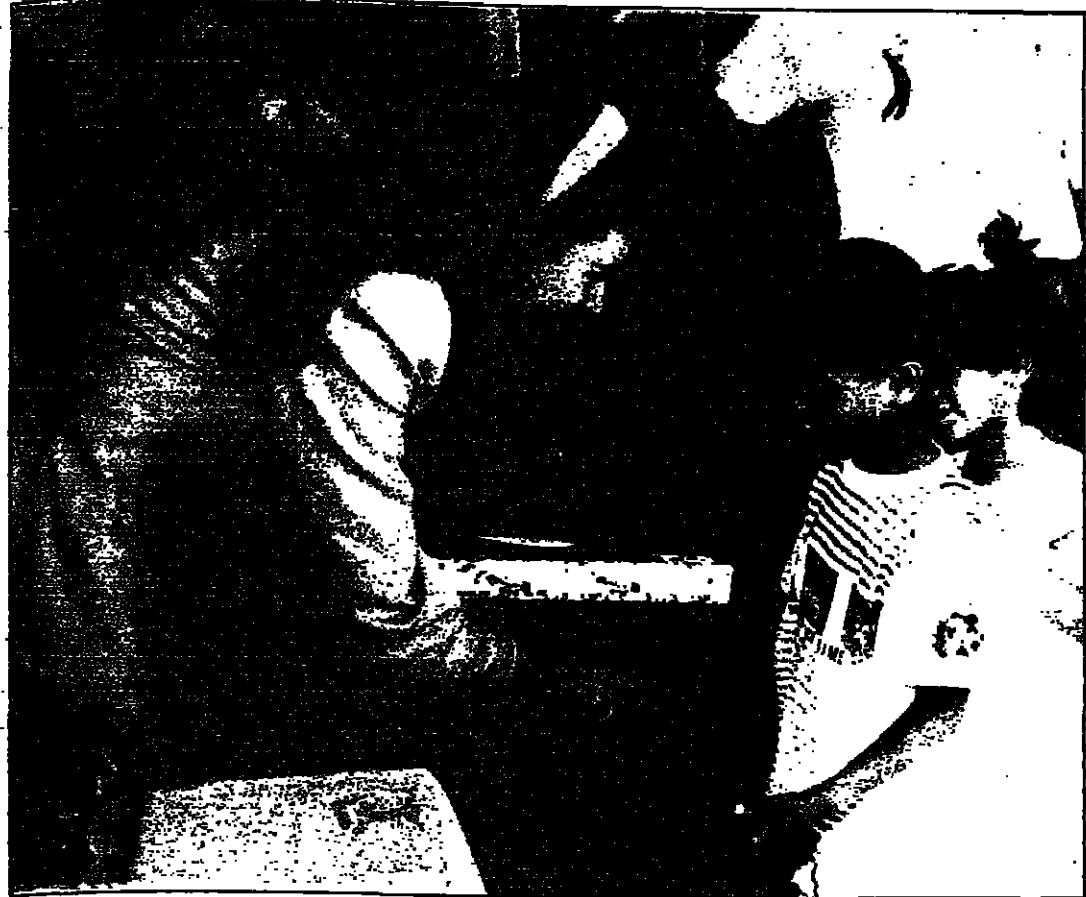
CHURCHES	
11:33	Dhuhr
12:12	'Asr
18:17	Maghreb
19:35	'Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedih, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terraviva Church Tel. 623566	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771531	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Another drop in temperatures will	

EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	751221
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	636321
Hotel Complaints	606300
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Armenian Municipality	767111
Telephone Information	
(directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Armonas Telephone	763336
Repairs	627025
Abdullah Telephone Repairs	661181
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100

HOSPITALS	
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	
Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queens Alla Intl. Airport	08-53200
AMMAN:	
Emman Medical Centre	818313/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	642816
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	642816
Jabal Amman Maternity	642816
Maternity, J. Amn.	636140
Palestine, Shamsud	641714
Shamsud Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845495
Al-Mansour Hospital	6672719
Al-Ahli, Abdull	66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdull	6661646
Bafan, Al-Mahajreh	771015
Al-Bashir, J. Abdull	7711126
Army, Marica	891611/15
Queen Alla Hospital	60240950
Amal Hospital	674155
ZABQA:	
Zarga Govt. Hospital	09983323
Zarga National Hospital	09991071
Amal Hospital	09987322
JERUSALEM:	
Princess Bonna Hospital	02725555
Greek Catholic Hospital	02727275
Bn Al-Natun Hospital	02747100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	05314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alla International Airport Tel. (05)5320-2, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
18:00	Jeddah (RJ)
18:10	Kuwait (RJ)
18:15	Agaba (RJ)
18:45	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
19:00	London (RJ)
19:15	Cairo (RJ)
19:30	Kuwait (RJ)
19:45	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:00	Dhahran (RJ)
20:15	Baghdad (RJ)
20:30	Cairo (RJ)
20:45	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:00	Dammam (RJ)
21:15	Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
21:30	Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
21:45	Sanaa (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
06:25	Rome (AZ)
11:55	Cairo (MS)
12:25	Kuwait (KU)
14:30	Kuwait (KU)
16:25	Sanaa (LE)

MARKET PRICES	
Upchawer price in lbs per kg	
Almonds	650 / 350
Apple	480 / 440
Banana	430 / 400
Banana (Mekumme)	4



Her Majesty Queen Noor gives gifts to orphans in SOS village, Thursday, first day of 'Eid Al Fitr (Petra photo)

Queen visits orphans on 'Eid

AMMAN (J.T.) — The 73 orphaned children at the SOS children's village at Tareq near Amman had a taste of 'Eid Al Fitr Thursday, when they were visited by Her Majesty Queen Noor and her children.

The Queen, accompanied by her children: Princes Hashem and Hamzah and Princesses Eiman and Raya, visited the orphaned

children, distributed gifts and toured their living quarters and village facilities.

She also met with the children's foster mothers and was briefed on general conditions.

Located on a 33 dunum piece of land at 10-minute drive from Al Hussein Youth City, the children's village was built in 1986 by

the Austria-based Kinderdorf Verlag organisation and is one of 87 similar villages around the world.

Patients at the Farah Rehabilitation Centre in Amman also received gifts on 'Eid Al Fitr by the centre's social committee established in 1983. The centre cares mostly for handicapped children.

Ministry urges restoration of burial places and tombs

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs has launched a campaign to raise funds for the restoration of 17 burial places and tombs of companions of the Prophet Muhammad who were interred in the Kingdom.

The ministry is going ahead with a nation-wide plan for the restoration, and is seeking public contributions to fund the project, according to Abdullah Ensour head of the Ministry's Islamic Archaeological Sites Department.

Preachers and imams in various mosques have been instructed to urge worshippers to visit these tombs and burial places and schools were encouraged to take children to them in a bid to spread public awareness to the need to repair that burial sites and to raise sufficient funds for that cause," Ensour said.

"The ministry is trying to carry out this project through a special committee which has already carried out repairs and built facilities around at least four of these locations," Ensour continued.

He said that the plan entails repairs, setting up resthouses for visitors and, if possible, the creation of small museums adjoining the sites and Islamic libraries to focus light on Islamic culture.

According to Ensour, some of these sites are located in the Jordan Valley, Shobak, Karak and Mazar as well as Tafleeh in the southern regions of the Kingdom.

He said that restoration of the four different tombs over the past five years altogether cost JD 168,000.



Minister of Health Mohammad Al Zaben addresses Saturday the symposium on Mediterranean fever (Petra photo)

Symposium to discuss Mediterranean fever

AMMAN (J.T.) — A two-day international symposium opened in Amman Saturday to discuss "familial Mediterranean fever," a hereditary disease which eventually causes failure of the kidneys.

Deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, in opening the meetings, Health Minister Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben said the disease largely affected people within the Mediterranean region and it was hoped the participants would come up with better ways to diagnose the disease and provide proper means for its treatment.

Zaben said scientists and specialists have limited knowledge about the disease although it has been known the world for a long time.

"Western scientists did limited research work on the disease because it seldom appeared in the

Western nations, while those of the Eastern countries have only lately given proper attention to it," the minister said in his speech, delivered on behalf of Prince Hassan.

"Thousands of newly graduated physicians and even specialists have never heard about this disease although some concern was shown by scientists as far back as the beginning of the 20th century," Zaben added.

According to the minister, since this disease is spread in the Mediterranean region, it becomes incumbent upon scientists of this region to intensify their efforts to promote ways for its diagnosis and its treatment.

Dr. Abdullah Hiyari who chaired a committee that prepared for the meeting said the disease, known as "amyloidosis," largely affects young people aged between five and 20 years; it

requires prompt treatment otherwise it could lead to complications and failure of the kidneys.

Hiyari told the meeting that very little had been published about this disease which is widely spread in the Mediterranean region and increases through marriages among relatives.

Some 150 specialists from Jordan and other countries are taking part in the meeting during which 34 working papers on the disease will be reviewed, according to Hiyari.

Hiyari warned that the disease can be detected through the occurrence of abdominal pain accompanied by fever which lasts up to four days.

Delegates attending the meeting came from Syria, Kuwait, Iraq, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Turkey, Malta, the United States, the Netherlands, France in addition to Jordan.

Nine killed, 1,045 injured during 'Eid Al Fitr holiday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Nine people were killed and 1,045 others were injured during the 'Eid Al Fitr holiday which started last Wednesday.

Police sources said 33 vehicles were damaged in road accidents during the holiday and 22 fires broke out in different regions of the Kingdom.

Al Basrah Hospital in Amman reported that 335 persons were admitted for treatment, six of

whom died later including two who were fatally injured by stray bullets during weddings.

Two of the dead at Al Basrah Hospital were said to have been run over by a car and two others stabbed in a fight.

Jordan University Hospital said that 98 people were admitted for treatment while the Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid reported that 237 were treated at its outpatient department.

In Matraq, the government hospital said that 40 citizens were admitted including one who died later after being rescued from a swimming pool, while Maan government hospital reported that 42 people received treatment during the past holiday.

Hospitals in Salt, Zarqa, Tafleeh, Karak, reported that a total of 220 citizens were treated at as a result of food poisoning and accidents.

King congratulates the Iraqi president

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday cabled his good wishes to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on his birthday wishing him continued success in leading his country towards further progress and development.

In the cable, the King paid tribute to the president for "dedicating his life and efforts to

serving the Arab Nation." "Your courage and wise leadership of Iraq have become a source of pride for all Arabs," the King said in his cable.

He wished the president continued success in "repelling enemy aggression and preserving the Arab Nation's dignity and pride."

Qasem stresses strong Jordanian-PLO relation

RIYADH (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem has described Jordan's relations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as excellent and that there was unlimited room for further development.

The minister was quoted by the Saudi Arabian daily Al Sharq Al Awsat as saying that Jordan and the PLO were working together for a total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian land and trying to help the Palestinians regain their lands and right to self-determination.

Referring to the U.S. House of

Representatives' latest decision regarding the city of Jerusalem, he said that the decision, which endorsed Israel's annexation of the city, is an irresponsible action that can only impede the peace process.

"The decision will give Israel the feeling that a major power will continue to support its aggression," the minister added.

Qasem called on the Arab Nation to confront the danger of Jewish immigration to Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied Arab lands and said that an Arab summit ought to be convened to deal with this issue.

Cold front to affect Jordan

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times staff writer

AMMAN (J.T.) — A week-long spell of khamsin conditions ended Saturday in Jordan with the arrival of a cold front from Eastern Europe, causing temperatures to go down from 30 to 20 degrees Centigrade within 24 hours.

A spokesman for the Meteorological Department, Jamal Al Mousa, told the Jordan Times that the cold mass of wind caused humidity to rise to 50 per cent, up from 17 per cent during the khamsin conditions.

Mousa said that in the past week Jordan came under the effect of hot, dry and dusty weather due to the hot mass of eastern and south eastern winds from the Arabian peninsula and India.

"At present, high pressure over central Europe caused the

relatively cold mass to move towards the eastern Mediterranean region, bringing in scattered showers that fell mostly in Irbid and the northern regions of Jordan Saturday, and caused high winds to blow from the south-west," Mousa said.

He expected this "fair" weather to continue for at least three more days during which temperatures could drop at night to 11 degrees Centigrade and rise to 18-19 degrees Centigrade during daytime.

Mousa said a cold front in the south of Turkey would cause cloudy weather in Jordan over the coming three days with a chance of further scattered showers, mostly in the north.

According to the Meteorology Department, the heatwave affected Cyprus, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Palestine and Egypt during the 'Eid Al Fitr holiday.

IDB annual report shows decline in volume of industrial investments

AMMAN (J.T.) — An annual report published by the Industrial Development Bank (IDB) reveals a decline in the volume of industrial investments in the Kingdom during the past year as a result of the general economic situation in Jordan.

The IDB report noted that 660 industrial schemes, together worth JD 65.5 million, were registered with the Ministry of Industry and Trade in 1989, down from 1,202 schemes with a total estimated capital of JD 100.9 million in 1988.

The report said the existing projects were, last year, geared to produce commodities for the local markets, thus helping to cut down on imports, and the devalued dinar helped to market national products abroad.

According to the report, Jordan's industrial exports increased by more than 81 per cent in the first 10 months of 1989, as compared with the same period in the previous year, and the IDB granted loans worth JD 12.49 million in 1989 for expansion of local industrial projects, pointing to positive indications for future exports.

The report also noted that 1989 witnessed an increase in industrial production over 1988. It said that production of leather, wool, soap, cement, paper, carton and batteries increased by between 8.2 per cent and 32.3 per cent.

The IDB loans during 1989 went to three tourist schemes and 14 industrial projects for the production of carpets, soap, airconditioners, solar heaters and pencils, the report said.

It said that these loans were together worth JD 1.62 million, but the total cost of the projects amounted to JD 5.2 million. The projects created jobs for 268 persons.

EC summit sets move

(Continued from page 1)

tical and economic links through a new set of association agreements with the community.

"The community will work to complete association negotiations with these countries in 1991 on the understanding that the basic conditions with regard to democratic principles and transition towards a market economy are fulfilled," the draft statement said.

Kohl and Mitterrand determined that a united Germany should be firmly embedded in an integrated community, have proposed changing radically the balance of power between EC institutions and the 12 member states.

They want to reinforce the powers of the European Parliament, now largely confined to an advisory role, and develop a common EC foreign and security policy.

During the morning session, Kohl addressed the issue of the hundreds of billions of West German marks will cost to reunite the two German states.

"The Federal Republic of Germany, and here the chancellor used a very graphic expression, does not intend to stick its hand into the money bag of the EC," the chancellor's spokesman, Hans Klein, told reporters.

"For example, the Mediterranean countries should not suffer as a result of unification," Kohl said, according to Klein.

The chancellor expressed his deep appreciation for the overwhelming support he received from the other leaders for the German unification process, according to Klein.

Experts estimate that it could cost 220 billion West German marks (\$130 billion) clean up East Germany's catastrophic environmental problems.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

THEATRE

★ Children play in Arabic entitled "Al Shahed" (The Witness) at the Royal Cultural Centre — 4:00 p.m.



His Majesty King Hussein, Thursday, attends prayers at King Abdullah the Martyr Mosque (Petra photo)

Public institutions resume work, Jordan switches to summer time

AMMAN (J.T.) — Government departments and public institutions in Jordan Sunday resume normal office hours with the end of the 'Eid Al Fitr holiday which marked the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

Jordan switched to summer time Friday by forwarding the clock 60 minutes, ending the winter time which lasted since Oct. 6, 1989.

The switch to summer time, when time is three hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) was deemed a wise practice and part of a national drive to conserve energy and reduce the country's fuel import bill.

The 'Eid Al Fitr period in Jordan was restricted to religious ceremonies held in all mosques of the country.

A major religious celebration

was held at King Abdullah the Martyr's Mosque in Abdali, Amman, it was attended by His Majesty King Hussein, Crown Prince Hassan, Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein, Prime Minister Mudar Badran and other dignitaries.

The King and the worshippers heard a sermon delivered by Dr. Ahmad Hilayel, Ministry of Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs' secretary-general, who paid tribute to the people of Palestine for their continued struggle and steadfastness in the face of the Israeli occupation.

"Jordan will continue to provide all possible support for the Palestinians in their endeavour to regain their land and their rights," Hilayel said.

He also condemned Israel's desecration of Islamic and Christian

holy places and appealed to Arab and Muslim nations to exert forces and fend off the danger in Palestine.

King Hussein met well-wishers after the ceremony and received dignitaries at the Royal Palace for an exchange of wishes on 'Eid Al Fitr.

Accompanied by His Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prince Faisal, the prime minister and other Royal Court officials, the King visited the tomb of late King Abdullah, founder of the Kingdom, and King Talal, where he recited verses of the Holy Koran.

It was announced by the Royal Court that King Hussein exchanged cables of good wishes on 'Eid Al Fitr with kings and heads of state of Arab and Islamic countries.



Taking a leisurely stroll during 'Eid (Photo by Youssef Al 'Alban)

Medical & Humanitarian Services Specialized Audiology Center

The Medical and Humanitarian Services Management is proud to announce the establishment of the Specialised Audiology Center (SAC).

The center provides identification and rehabilitation services for persons with possible speech, hearing and/or language problems.

The center is staffed by certified American and Jordanian speech language pathologists and audiologists. Specific services provided by the staff include:

HEARING

- Full audiological assessment, including play audiometry for the evaluation of children.
- Immittance tests for the evaluation of middle ear function.
- Evaluation, consultation, and dispensing of hearing aids, and other assistive equipment using state-of-the art procedures.
- Evaluation of old/used hearing aids.
- Consultation for parents and teachers of hearing impaired children.
- Communication rehabilitation for adults and children.

SPEECH

- Evaluation of speech problem including:
 - 1- Stuttering.
 - 2- Voice disorders.
 - 3- Articulation disorders.
- Evaluation of expressive and receptive language.
- Rehabilitation of speech/language differences and/or disorders.

Daily hours: 9:00-7:00

Address : 18 Malhas Hospital St., First Circle, Jabal Amman

Phone : 610988

Note: Please consult your physician before visiting us.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975
الصحف الأردنية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Soul sellers on Capitol Hill

THE RESOLUTION by the U.S. House of Representatives recognising Israel's sovereignty over Jerusalem cannot be taken lightly or brushed aside as a mere non-binding resolution that does not commit Washington to anything. Coming as it has on the heels of the earlier U.S. Senate's resolution on Jerusalem, this latest blatant and illegal resolution deserves to be taken seriously and has to be viewed as a prelude to ominous erosion in the U.S. stance on the Holy City. The fact that the Bush administration has also taken the latest resolution by the American legislature tying down does not augur well for the official position of the U.S. on this most sensitive issue. This is the second time running that the administration has decided not to show its teeth in opposing a wrong and dangerous decision by the congress on the same subject. Had President Bush and Secretary of State Baker been serious enough about their official commitment to the status of Jerusalem as an occupied city, they would have found the necessary words and actions to stop the erosion in official U.S. policies on the Middle East. One would have thought that the forceful occupation of a Christian sanctuary belonging to the Greek Orthodox church right in the heart of the Christian quarter in Jerusalem by Jewish zealots and with the connivance of the Israeli government would cause the U.S. legislature to at least pause and reflect on the future of the Holy City rather than offer to hand the whole of Jerusalem on a silver platter to the Israelis. Surely it must have dawned on the congressmen that the Israeli occupation of Jerusalem is a big obstacle to freedom of worship to Christians and Muslims alike. Or is it possible that the members of the U.S. House of Representatives or their colleagues in the Senate have sold their souls to Israel and the Israeli lobbyist groups in Washington and there is no way left to redeem them? If this is the case, then the U.S. Congress must be held with contempt, first by their constituents who do not really know what their representatives are doing, and second by peace-loving people everywhere.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

THE U.S. Congress's resolution recognising a "united Jerusalem" as the capital of Israel was strongly criticised by the local Arabic dailies on Thursday, the first day of Eid Al Fitr which marked the end of the holy month of Ramadan. Al Ra'i Arabic daily said the decision as a blow to all aspirations for peace in the Middle East, and a great disappointment to those trying to achieve that peace. The paper said that the American decision, coupled by the ongoing campaign against Iraq should, serve as a reminder to the Arabs that the West, in collusion with Israel, is trying to fight the Arab countries' will to survive, let alone liberate the lands of Palestine occupied by Israel since 1967. All these indications point to the fact that a dangerous conspiracy is being hatched to thwart all Arab attempts to build up an intrinsic force and regain usurped Arab lands in Palestine, the paper noted. It should be frankly said that the Arab Nation has no alternative but reaching consensus at the summit level to deal with this dangerous situation, and that there is no more room for further procrastination and foot-dragging concerning the question of holding a meeting by Arab leaders to revive the eastern front so that the Arabs can deal with any form of aggression and thwart enemy conspiracies, the paper concluded.

A columnist in Al Ra'i condemns the execution of 28 Sudanese army officers for their alleged involvement in an attempted coup last week, and says that the execution of the officers reminds the Arabs of a period considered as the darkest spot in their history. Had the ruler of Sudan, Lt. Gen. Omar Al Bashir been elected to his post as ruler of Sudan, the executions could have been justified as disposing of those elements trying to defy the legitimate rule of the people; but Bashir came to power through a military coup, and why then should he deny others the right to which he had availed himself? asks Tareq Masarweh. The writer notes that the present regime in Sudan has failed to put down the separatist movement in the south, failed to improve the deteriorating economic conditions in the country and failed to maintain the unity of the people behind the new military junta. He says that Bashir possesses no political ideology to retain power in Sudan which is facing famine and is almost isolated from the international community. He says Bashir, facing all these failures and inability to cope with the present situation, took vengeance on the group of army officers without even giving them a fair trial and during the holy month of Ramadan.

BY adopting a resolution in supporting Israel's annexation of Jerusalem the United States Congress has thus invited the hostility of the Arab and Muslim nations, said Al Dustow daily. Members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives have done their country no service by involving themselves in matters that can adversely affect America's national interests, said the paper. Indeed the blindness and the political confusion which characterise the Congress are bound to bring serious harm to the United States, a view supported by U.S. Senator Robert Dole who has just concluded a tour of the Middle East, it said. In addition, the Congress's action is bound to impede all efforts by the U.S. administration to regain America's credibility through reviving the peace process, the paper added. The paper voiced the Muslim and Arab Nations' strongest condemnation of the Congress's attitude concerning Jerusalem and appealed to all Arabs and Muslims to join forces and protect their rights and holy places.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Now is the right time for investment

By Dr. Fehed Faneh

MOST economic indicators reflect significant improvement during the past year in the Jordanian economy. Instead of targets set forth in the economic adjustment programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and put into effect as of mid April 1989, are being attained. However, there are some areas which so far did not yet give a favourable reading, and did not show the desirable improvement. Prominent among these areas is the stagnation of new investments which remained slow.

Perhaps the major reason behind the hesitation of potential investors, and their prefer-

ence to wait and see, is that Jordan is currently passing through a transitional economic and political period. Transitional periods naturally create their own uncertainty and cause events and developments to be unpredictable. In such situations, investors prefer to sit aside and watch the events. They will not act only when the tempest is over and the dust is settled down.

Stagnation of investment is of course a very negative phenomenon. Without new investments there could be no economic growth or additional jobs for the unemployed. Since lack of economic growth and high

unemployment are at this time the economic and social challenges to Jordan's decision-makers, new investment becomes very important. It is the key of the solution both challenges.

What was achieved on the economic front since the crisis of 1988 is substantial. Achievements included halting the deterioration of the economy, reducing budget deficit, increasing national exports, decreasing imports, re-building the Central Bank's reserves of foreign exchange, making available foreign currency for all legitimate purposes, ensuring a relative stability of the

dinar's exchange rate, and eliminating the black market. All these achievements contributed to regaining economic stability, which is the prerequisite for new investment.

However, no positive indication exists at the moment to point to huge investment starting soon. We may have to wait longer. But I am convinced that the objective justification for a new wave of investment is there, and can be pointed out easily. It includes economic stability, the improvement in the fundamentals of the economy, the improvement in the standing of Jordanian shareholding companies, and the

sharp rise in their profitability.

At this point in time one can notice that previous investments which were in financial trouble have recovered and became profitable. The secondary market soared; share prices doubled and some cases tripled; domestic liquidity is in abundance, and banks are searching for good borrowers; the cost of production decreased in real terms, especially wages and rents; export markets in the Gulf and Europe are receptive; competition of foreign commodities in the domestic market has decreased considerably; and all the circumstances have become con-

ducive to new investments. Jordanian and Arab investors will not fail to read and understand all these facts, and are expected sooner than later to respond to them positively.

Investments that may start now have a very promising potential. Of course care and selectivity are essential, but the reluctant investors and businessmen, may miss the opportunity.

Successful investment does not depend on opportunity only proper timing is as important and crucial. It is my conviction that the proper time for starting new investments in Jordan is now.

The realities and dangers of nuclear lopsidedness

By Yezid Sayigh

A SINGULAR feature about the recent discovery of the "covert" Iraqi attempt to obtain krypton — nuclear triggers — is the curious way in which Western media coverage has largely overlooked two things in its commentary. One is the Israeli record in nuclear development and related smuggling operations. The second, and more fundamental, element missing is a sense of the extent to which the Israeli nuclear and ballistic missile programmes (and those of Iran, under both the shah and the ayatollahs) have in fact been the primary cause of similar Iraqi and Arab efforts.

It has become almost universally accepted that Israel has long possessed nuclear weapons and the means to deliver them, and that it may even be working to develop more sophisticated types such as neutron and thermonuclear (hydrogen) bombs. Yet habit, and the underlying feeling that after all Israel is not like "nasty" Iraq, have given rise to a dangerously complacent attitude towards the frequent disclosures of Israeli activities, which are themselves always clandestine.

A wide range of Israeli covert operations designed to acquire nuclear technology and materials illegally has been revealed in the media over the past three decades, pointing to a massive and sustained weapons programme. Indeed, Israel acquired its first main reactor (Dimona) through a secret deal with France, even keeping the U.S. in the dark. And much of the uranium used in the 1960s and early 1970s, probably for the construction of atom bombs, was obtained in two fraudulent operations: the NUMEC affair, in which a "front" company was set up in the U.S. to allow the diversion of 200-572 lbs of weapons-grade enriched uranium in 1957-1967; and the "plumbat" affair in which the European Common Market's nuclear regulatory agency (EURATOM) was deceived into selling 200 tons of uranium oxide (sufficient for eight years of reactor operation) to another fake company for diversion to Israel in 1968.

The list since the 1960s is a long one. More recently, in 1985 a U.S. businessman was arrested for having sold 810 krypton — the same tiny flashbulb-like devices regulating electronic pulses to trigger nuclear bombs that Iraq was accused to trying to smuggle through Heathrow in March of this year — to Israel in 1980-1982. He did so through yet another "front" company, and deceived U.S. customs agents, but was set free on bail and eventually resurfaced in Israel. His attempt to obtain "green salt" (processed uranium) failed, however, though he succeeded in shipping lasers and many other military items.

The next incident was the revelation in October 1986, by Israeli nuclear technician, Mordechai Vanunu, that Israel not only possessed sufficient fissionable material to make 200 nuclear weapons, but had also developed the means to produce more lethal neutron and hydrogen warheads. Yet because his statements were made in The Sunday Times, Western governments could continue to insist that they had no official knowledge of the matter. The attitude was expressed in the way the British, and especially the Italians, overlooked entirely the circumstances in which Vanunu was kidnapped and taken back to Israel for trial.

In the meantime, Israel continues to delay responding to softly-voiced, albeit repeated, demands from Norway that it account for 20 tons of heavy water bought in the 1960s. Although Vanunu's testimony reveals that it was diverted from civilian use under international and U.S. inspection at the smaller Soreq research reactor to Dimo-

na's weapon programme, the Norwegian government in 1987 refused to push the matter on the basis that it had no official knowledge that Israel possessed atomic weapons. This, despite repeated CIA assertion of just that fact since 1975, with the most recent confirmation coming in November 1989.

The last instances reveal the extent to which the Israeli nuclear weapons programme has benefited from Western indulgence. The same applies to Israeli efforts to develop delivery means. Since mid-1986, Israel has test-launched its nuclear-capable Jericho ballistic missile over the Mediterranean four times; in September 1989 one landed 400 kms north of Benghazi but provoked a protest from the USSR only. A year previously, a satellite was put into orbit, but there was little Western concern over the fact that the same booster rocket provided Israel with a capability to launch warheads to ranges variously estimated at 5,000 to 7,000 kms. The same could be said of the launching of a second satellite, on April 3, 1990.

These flights did not fuel particular concern, although in 1985 a U.S. scientist had reported seeing an Israeli "miniaturised" nuclear warhead designed specifically for use on missiles. And at present the U.S. is considering the sale of IBM and Cray "supercomputers" to Israel, which can be used to simulate both the trajectory of ballistic missiles and nuclear explosions. The latter aspect is especially important: without advanced computers no country can be sure that its nuclear devices will explode efficiently, but under U.S. law any state that detonates such devices cannot receive U.S. aid.

As serious a dimension of Western indulgence towards Israel's nuclear activities is raised by its cooperation with South Africa. In 1979 a special panel was set up by then President Carter, virtually with the express purpose of denying that a nuclear explosion had just taken place that September in the South Atlantic-Indian Ocean: the point being that a large number of U.S. agencies — including the DIA and CIA — had adamantly confirmed that one had indeed taken place, specifically as a result of a joint Israeli-South African test. Ten years later, the U.S. government belittled media investigations revealing that the same two states had conducted a joint ballistic missile test launch in July 1989, and that Israel had received enriched uranium in return for its role. The reason, as nuclear physicist and expert Frank Barnaby has written, is that "the U.S. government will go to great lengths to avoid cutting off aid to Israel, and this is why it will do all it can to avoid having to admit that Israel has tested a nuclear weapon."

Most dangerous in the head-in-the-sand attitude of Western governments towards Israeli nuclear efforts is that it studiously ignores the extent to which the Arab states feel threatened and thus provoked into a parallel search for non-conventional deterrence. Not only do Western governments miss seeing the underlying motive forces, and thus fail in formulating effective mechanisms for the regulation of prevention of NBC (nuclear/biological/chemical) proliferation, but their lopsided approach contributes to the rise in regional tension. On the one hand it heightens the sense of Arab insecurity, and so stimulates redoubled NBC effort, while on the other hand it encourages a false (or not so false?) sense of impunity in Israel and so feeds its military adventurism.

At the end of the day, Arab states such as Iraq will take their cue from the policies of the industrialised countries towards other

nuclear aspirants. In late 1989, the U.S. administration reversed previous policy to raise the enrichment level of uranium sold to Pakistan from five to 90 per cent. This is already sufficient for low-efficiency bombs, and eliminates 70 per cent of the enrichment required to reach the level of top weapons-grade material (95 per cent).

Meanwhile, Israel still refuses to sign, let alone ratify, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and rejects inspection of Dimona by the International Atomic Energy Agency — Iraq has signed the first and permits the second. This may merely be a nominal distinction, given the record of both states and the possibility of circumventing controls, but it is of great symbolic significance, since it is taken by countries like Iraq as proof that what is sauce for the goose may not be sauce for the gander too: Iraqi adherence to the NPT and IAEA regimes has neither curbed Israeli nuclear and ballistic activity nor led to U.S. pressure on Israel for reciprocal measures, so why bother?

Rightly or wrongly, Iraq cannot but note U.S. policy, which one U.S. official summarises as "the need to make a distinction between those countries that are close friends and allies, and pose no proliferation risk [sic], and those countries and areas in the world where we have real concern about the spread of nuclear weapons." The idea that possession of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles (since the mid or late-1960s) by Israel can be harmless and have no eventual effect on its neighbours is dangerously ludicrous, and goes far in explaining why Iraq finally chose to redress the balance unilaterally through both nuclear and chemical deterrence — Middle East International, London.

U.S. Congress expected to cut more of defence budget

BY JIM ADAMS
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Knives are being sharpened on Capitol Hill as the U.S. Congress prepares to force Defence Secretary Dick Cheney to slice even larger chunks off his military budget as East-west tensions ease.

Cheney proposed to Congress on Thursday cutting the planned number of radar-evading R-2 Stealth bombers to 75 planes from the original target of 132, and suggested cuts or delays in five other aircraft programmes to achieve defence savings of \$34.8 billion over the next eight years.

"I think the Warsaw Pact is a thing of the past, a relic of history," he said, while cautioning that U.S. military forces had to be ready to respond to any threat that might develop.

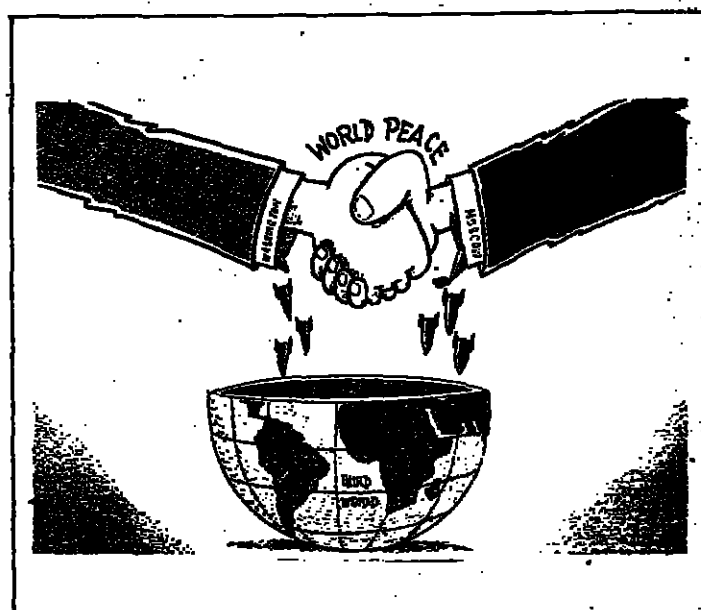
But even as Cheney spoke, the House of Representatives was working on a budget resolution that leaders said would produce a "peace dividend" of \$250 billion over five years.

It would carve \$24 billion off President George Bush's \$306.9 billion defence request for next year. Senate budget committee chairman Jim Sasser, a Tennessee Democrat, wants to cut \$26 billion.

The Defence Department said cuts that big would force it to mothball up to another three of the army's 18 active divisions worldwide, in addition to the two it already plans to disband. It would cut its 2.1 million military force by up to 150,000 people next year.

Bush's power to veto Congress's defence bills means he does not have to accept whatever action it takes, and administration officials say there is sure to be a budget summit that will work out a compromise.

But Bush supporters' hopes of winning nearly all of his defence



request appeared dashed earlier this month when the conservative Senate armed services committee chairman, Sen. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, called for defence cuts of up to \$18 billion.

"When someone as centrist and conservative as Sen. Thurmond puts that number on it, not many people will go lower," said Gordon Adams, director of the non-government Defence Budget Project, a research group.

Nunn backed his proposal with a plan that many Congress members are likely to support for reshaping U.S. military forces to achieve the cuts.

Essentially, he called for cutting the 305,000 U.S. troops in Europe to as few as 75,000, putting part of the large active U.S. military into reserve and turning much of the rest of it into rapid response forces that could move quickly into trouble spots anywhere in the world.

Nunn said European NATO allies should replace most U.S.

troops in forward defence units, but U.S. forces should be in a position to move quickly back into Europe in a war.

He also said Bush's \$4.5 billion request for the Strategic Defence Initiative (Star Wars) antimissile system research should be cut to last year's \$3.8 billion, and Bush's plan to put MX 10-warhead nuclear missiles on railroad cars should be postponed.

One flaw in Congress's defence cutting drive is the propensity of members to lobby in favour of weapons produced in their own districts.

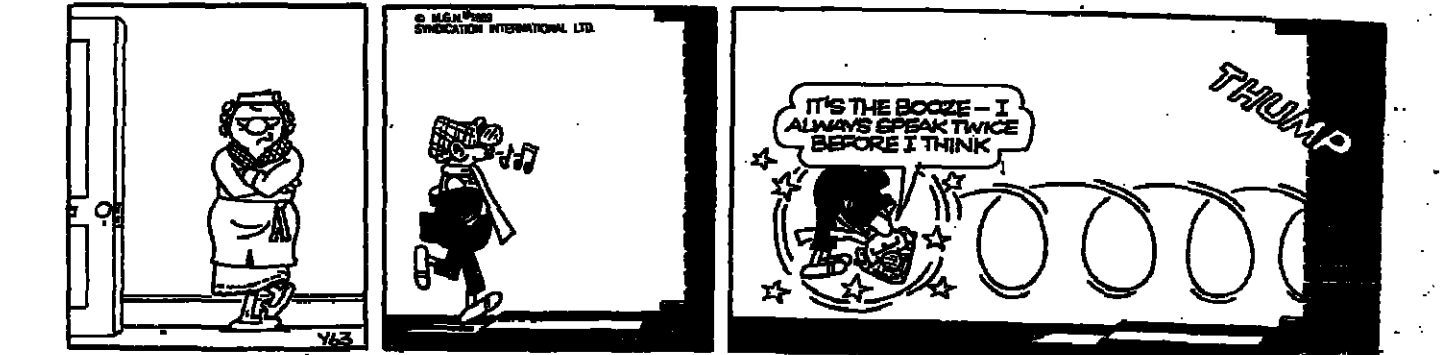
Cheney complained at the end of the week that some Congress members are only using the break-up of the Warsaw Pact's military power in the past year as their latest excuse to oppose U.S. defence spending.

"There are people on Capitol Hill who probably would not have supported the defence budget in the middle of World War Two," Cheney said.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



LA SEMAINE DE...

Suleiman Sweiss

1er mai

Travailleurs jordaniens: quelle fête?

Comme tout le monde, les travailleurs jordaniens ont profité de l'ouverture démocratique qui règne dans le pays depuis un an. Ouvriers et employés de plusieurs secteurs (mines, pétrole, imprimeries, banques, industrie alimentaire...) ont défilé des grèves; d'autres ont posé leurs revendications, concernant l'augmentation des salaires et l'amélioration des conditions de travail. La plupart de ces mouvements ont obtenu satisfaction.

Pourtant, ces revendications sont restées limitées, par rapport à l'ampleur de l'injustice et aux maux dont souffre une grande partie des travailleurs. Cela est d'autant plus regrettable, que le ministre du Travail lui-même adopte, pour la première fois dans l'histoire du pays, des positions plus équilibrées.

En effet, tout au long des années précédentes, la politique suivie dans le domaine du travail privilégiait le patronat en renforçant le plus souvent la dépendance et la répression des travailleurs. Une section "ouvrière" au sein des services de renseignement avait d'ailleurs pour tâche d'empêcher les travailleurs trop marqués politiquement, notamment à gauche, d'accéder à des fonctions syndicales au sein de la Fédération générale des travailleurs jordaniens (FGTJ).

Résultat de cette situation: un niveau de vie très bas; une faiblesse générale du mouvement syndical ouvrier (malgré l'influence grandissante des forces politiques au sein même de ce mouvement); une loi du travail archaïque, qui soumet les droits des travailleurs à de trop nombreux arbitrages.

Alors qu'approche le 1er mai, les ouvriers jordaniens méritent qu'on s'arrête sur leur condition. Selon l'économiste F. Fanek, le salaire mensuel moyen des Jordaniens ne dépassait pas les 115 dinars en 1989. Dans le secteur privé, la paye des ouvriers passe rarement la barre des 100 dinars. Dans le secteur public, on est payé un peu mieux. Certaines études sur la pauvreté dans le royaume estiment que le seuil d'indigence est atteint quand une famille ne gagne que 150 dinars par mois. Les ouvriers sont donc pour la plupart dans cette situation.

Deuxième grand problème socio-économique: le chômage, dont le taux varie actuellement entre 20% et 22% de la population active. Certes, un nombre considérable de chômeurs sont de jeunes diplômés. Mais les ouvriers n'en souffrent pas moins, soit à cause de la récession économique de ces dernières années, soit du fait de la "concurrence" entre travailleurs nationaux et immigrés, "privilégiés" dans le recrutement par les entreprises en raison de leur acceptation de bas salaires.

Conséquence de cette situation, les travailleurs sont mal représentés à l'échelle nationale où leur rôle passe presque inaperçu: en témoigne leur unique représentant désigné au sein de la commission royale chargée d'élaborer une nouvelle charte.

Les ouvriers font partie de ceux qui n'ont encore guère tiré avantage de la nouvelle donne politique. Ils ne l'ont pas pu ou pas su. Ils n'ont notamment pas réussi à discuter de l'évolution de leur mouvement et de leurs méthodes d'action syndicale, sociale et politique.

Le conflit, qui a éclaté la semaine dernière au sein de la FGTJ apparaît comme l'aboutissement d'une crise plutôt profonde. La liste des revendications des ouvriers est assez longue, mais il est probable, assurent certains, qu'aucun changement sensible ne se produira si la démocratisation en cours ne pénètre pas les structures de la FGTJ.

Dix syndicats sur les dix-sept de la Fédération le pensent en tout cas. Ils réclament des élections libres, l'application des règlements des syndicats, l'amendement (sinon même le changement) de la loi sur le Travail de 1960 et encore la convocation du IVe congrès de la FGTJ.

A l'échelle du pays, la lutte contre le chômage mais aussi l'approfondissement des tendances démocratiques font partie des thèmes sur lesquels doivent aussi se pencher les ouvriers de Jordanie. A deux jours du 1er mai, fête internationale du travail, il faut souhaiter qu'ils en prennent conscience.



Entretien avec le caricaturiste Jalal Rifai

Le dessin, langage universel

Jalal Rifai (★) est sans nul doute le plus connu et le plus apprécié des caricaturistes de presse jordaniens. Au rythme de deux dessins quotidiens, il illustre l'actualité politique et locale pour le quoti-

dien de langue arabe "Al Dustur". Premier dessinateur à oser croquer les ministres et les personnalités du pays, il explique au "Jourdain" le rôle que joue la caricature dans le monde de l'information.

Le Jourdain: Quelle place tient la caricature dans l'information, à vos yeux?

Jalal Rifai: Je crois qu'au cours de ce siècle la caricature s'est hissée au rang de rubrique la plus importante des journaux et des magazines. Parce que c'est un langage universel, comme la musique. Quoi que le caricaturiste dessine, n'importe qui peut au moins jeter un oeil et peut-être comprendre ce qu'il a voulu dire. Sans un mot, ou si peu. Même à ceux qui ne comprennent pas sa langue, le dessinateur peut délivrer son message. Sans difficulté. Par ailleurs, on sait que les gens prennent de moins en moins le temps de lire une page entière ou même deux ou trois colonnes d'un journal. Or le dessin est une lecture rapide d'accès facile. C'est sa valeur: vous le "lisez" vite, quitte à prendre conscience de la dimension du message une demi-heure ou une heure plus tard. Peut-être riez-vous d'abord, mais après un moment, vous commencez à penser à la portée de la caricature. C'est sa force.

L. J.: Un caricaturiste de presse se doit-il d'être bien informé?

J. R.: Un bon caricaturiste lit, écoute et voyage beaucoup. Il lui faut voir le monde, le plus qu'il peut. C'est un plus pour lui de connaître au moins une langue étrangère, parce qu'elle lui ouvre un univers qu'il n'aurait jamais eues. Sa qualité majeure est d'être à l'écoute des gens, qui parlent toujours et disent presque tout. Un vrai caricaturiste prend des idées ici et là et fait de bons dessins, parce qu'il s'est immergé dans la vie des gens, leurs pensées. Avoir toujours les oreilles et les yeux ouverts, lire... C'est essentiel. Après, c'est facile de trouver un thème et de dessiner. Si le caricaturiste reste enfermé dans son bureau, à lire les titres de la presse, il ne trouvera rien. Parce que les titres, c'est la surface des choses, comme la radio et la télé. S'il lit, par contre, il emmagasine des connaissances qui serviront son inspiration.

L. J.: Assez pour produire deux caricatures par jour, comme vous le faites?

J. R.: Oui. Deux dessins par jour, ça n'est pas facile, mais pas si compliqué non plus. Pour moi, en tout cas. Sans doute parce que j'aime ça. Voilà douze ans, que je travaille à ce rythme. J'ai ainsi des milliers de dessins à la maison. Les idées me viennent facilement. Tant mieux!

L. J.: Combien de temps consacrez-vous à une caricature?

J. R.: Ça dépend. Parfois, j'ai fini en une demi-heure. Parfois, j'ai besoin de la journée entière pour mes deux dessins. Affaire d'humour... Je viens au journal tous les matins. Je lis les journaux, les magazines, dont quelques éditions anglaises que je reçois. Et puis je prends le temps de trouver mon inspiration.

L. J.: Vous commandez-vous parfois les dessins?

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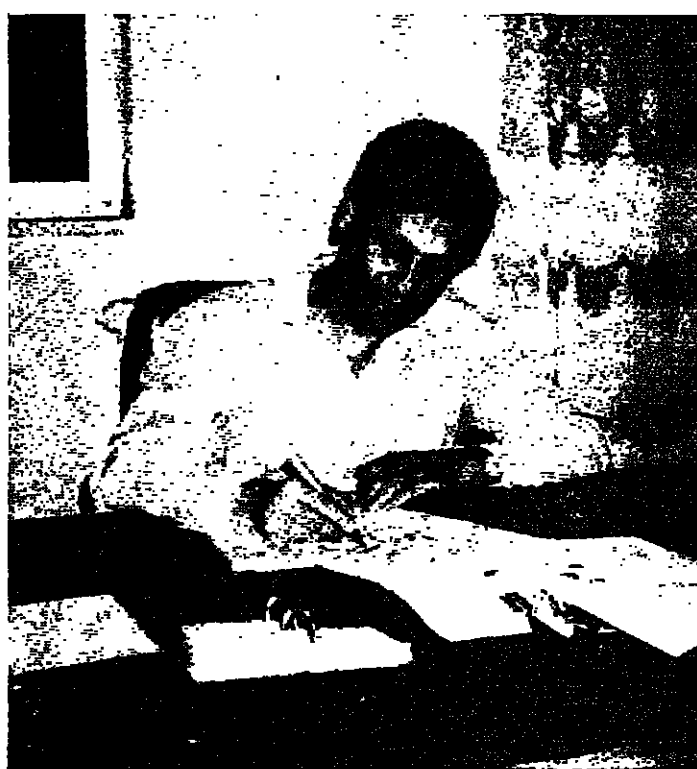
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Jalal Rifai au travail.

J. R.: Non. Je choisis toujours. Depuis mes débuts, en 1970, je pratique ainsi. Pour moi, c'est le seul moyen de travailler. Je ne pourrais pas dessiner sur ordre. J'ai besoin de trouver moi-même mes thèmes.

L. J.: Soumettez-vous vos dessins à vos collègues du journal avant publication?

J. R.: Il faut le faire, bien sûr. Dans 99% des cas, la rédaction en chef donne son feu vert. Parce que, tous les jours, avant même de dessiner, je parle avec l'équipe, je sens l'atmosphère. Et puis, je crois qu'en s'y prenant bien, on peut aborder tous les sujets par la caricature.

L. J.: Vous arrive-t-il cependant d'essayer des refus pour des dessins jugés "choquants"?

J. R.: Non. Ou alors très, très rarement. Depuis mon retour au "Dustur", je me suis même lancé, pour la première fois en Jordanie, dans la caricature de ministres. Autrefois, c'aurait été extrêmement dur. Je veux faire comprendre au personnel politique du pays que le dessin de presse n'est pas, comme beaucoup le croient, une critique personnelle...

L. J.: La caricature donne l'impression d'aller parfois plus vite que le reste de la presse. Elle s'est montrée très virulente, avant même les élections de novembre...

J. R.: Je me rappelle beaucoup de dessins que j'ai fait à l'époque sur les rapports qu'entretenaient les députés avec leurs électeurs, sur leur attitude avant et après le scrutin. Les gens ont beaucoup aimé ça. Parce que, comme je vous l'ai dit, c'est le message de la caricature: transmettre ce que les gens pensent. C'est aussi pour cela que nous allons plus vite. Un journaliste, qui écrit, est enfermé dans une forme précise de message. Nous, nous pouvons jouer avec les formes, nous sommes plus libres.

L. J.: Vous avez vécu en Europe. La caricature vous y est-elle apparue très différente?

J. R.: L'Occident rime avec plus de liberté, d'ouverture, et diffusion de la presse. En Angleterre, le rôle qu'il joue dans la vie publique. Plus que dans un petit pays. Je pense que nous avons de bons dessinateurs dans le monde arabe. Mais, faute d'ouverture, ils restent quasi anonymes. Une caricature, faite en Europe ou aux Etats-Unis, peut faire le tour de tous les pays, apportant réputation et argent à son créateur. Le dessinateur occidental est mieux payé, et dessine rarement plus de cinq jours sur sept. Ici, c'est tous les jours.

L. J.: Il semble aussi que le dessin en Jordanie soit plus engagé, notamment en politique, plus proche de l'information, moins distancé, moins humoristique...

J. R.: Il faut tenir compte de l'histoire de la presse. En Angleterre, le "Times" a une expérience de 200 ans. Vous ne pouvez demander la même attitude à un journal qui a 20 ou 30 ans d'existence. Et puis, nous voyageons moins... Tout cela affecte le comportement du caricaturiste arabe, comme celui des autres journalistes, vous savez.

Avez-vous un faible pour certains de vos collègues occidentaux?

J. R.: Je n'ai pas de préférence pour un tel ou un tel. J'aime les bonnes idées. Il m'arrive de trouver, dans les journaux, des dessins d'incommuns. La signature ne me dit rien, mais je sens que c'est un bon. Les grands noms, bien sûr ne sortent pas du néant. Quelqu'un comme Plantu en France, me séduit. Il a un beau coup de crayon et de bonnes idées. C'est d'ailleurs pourquoi, comme pour quelques autres, nous publions de temps en temps ses dessins parus dans "Le Monde".

L. J.: Estimez-vous qu'être caricaturiste, c'est faire œuvre de journaliste?

J. R.: Oui. Un bon article doit vous laisser une idée. C'est un principe journalistique. Une caricature fait face au même enjeu. C'est la même chose, le même souci de communication. Il faut être un bon journaliste pour être un bon caricaturiste.

L. J.: Pensez-vous que le dessinateur est un aiguillon pour les journalistes de plume?

J. R.: Je le crois. Je le sens même, en parlant avec les collègues. Parfois, ils s'enthousiasment pour un dessin et me disent: "Tiens, je vais écrire sur ton sujet, de cette façon là". Mais l'inverse existe aussi. Nous nous aidons mutuellement.

L. J.: Vous avez lancé une page de caricature ouverte aux lecteurs, qui paraît le vendredi. Quel bilan faites-vous de ses quatre premiers mois d'existence?

J. R.: Je pense que c'est la page la plus réussie du journal. Certains libraires nous disent que le vendredi, après 12h00, vous ne trouvez plus "Al Dustur". Parce que les jeunes, surtout, aiment cette page. Par ailleurs, je reçois quotidiennement entre 7 et 12 lettres de lecteurs, qui suivent cette expérience. Ils participent en m'envoyant des idées que je mets en dessins, ou même des caricatures. J'en ai des centaines, dans mes tiroirs, qui attendent d'être publiées.

L. J.: Avez-vous déniché de jeunes talents?

J. R.: C'est l'un des objectifs de cette page. J'ai quelques lecteurs, qui m'apportent chaque semaine quatre ou cinq dessins. J'en choisis deux par édition. Leurs noms apparaissent presque tous les vendredis. Ça veut dire qu'ils aiment la caricature. Et l'amour de ce métier, c'est une bonne part de la réussite.

Propos recueillis par Alain Renou.

(★) Né près de Jérusalem, Jalal Rifai a étudié le dessin et l'animation en Angleterre entre 1970 et 1976. Après avoir successivement travaillé pour les trois quotidiens de langue arabe du royaume, il est parti à Dubaï au début des années 1980. Depuis 4 mois, il collabore à nouveau au "Dustur" où il a inauguré une page hebdomadaire de caricatures ouverte aux lecteurs. Jalal Rifai a publié cinq recueils de dessins, dont le dernier en 1989.

EN BREF

Dialogue. Le roi Hussein a rencontré mardi à Amman les dirigeants du Parti populaire démocratique jordanien (PPDJ) pour la première fois depuis la fondation de cette formation. Une délégation de neuf membres du PPDJ, dont son secrétaire général, Tayssir al-Zabari, son secrétaire adjoint, le député Bassam Haddadine, et son porte-parole, Suleiman al-Nahas ont notamment demandé au souverain habémité «d'accélérer la législation des partis sans attendre l'élaboration de la charte nationale. La délégation a, en outre, suggéré au roi Hussein l'organisation d'un congrès national économique en vue d'examiner la situation économique du pays et de parvenir à des solutions susceptibles d'atténuer les répercussions de la crise sur les citoyens», selon M. al-Nahas.

Inquiétude. Le chef de l'OLP a affirmé qu'Israël «se dirige vers la guerre» après s'être opposé à toutes les initiatives de paix palestiniennes, arabe et internationale, dans une interview retransmise mercredi par la télévision jordanienne. Selon Yasser Arafat, «tous les indices démontrent que les dirigeants israéliens» semblent militer dans cette voie. L'Etat hébreu procède «actuellement à des entraînements militaires dans le Neguev, notamment des exercices simulés visant des objectifs similaires à ceux d'Irak», a-t-il assuré, sans plus de précisions. Le chef de l'OLP a d'autre part dénoncé «la politique partielle des Etats-Unis en faveur d'Israël» et affirmé que Washington a diminué de 18 millions de dollars sa contribution au budget de l'Office des Nations Unies pour le secours aux réfugiés de Palestine (UNRWA) pour 1990.

Refugiés. La nouvelle convention sur l'aide de la CEE aux réfugiés palestiniens, signée jeudi à Bruxelles, prévoit l'octroi par la Communauté de quelque 72 millions d'euros (86,4 millions de dollars) jusqu'en 1992. Cette enveloppe sera complétée, a précisé la Commission européenne, par une aide alimentaire, évaluée à 24 millions de dollars. Le Japon a pour sa part décidé de soutenir l'OLP pour la création d'un centre de formation professionnelle dans les territoires occupés et participera à la construction d'un hôpital à Gaza, a annoncé jeudi à Tokyo un proche de Yasser Arafat.

Sommet. La demande de l'OLP de convoquer un sommet arabe extraordinaire pour examiner «les dangers de l'immigration juive dans les territoires occupés et les menaces adressées à l'Irak» a été approuvée par 11 des 22 membres de la Ligue arabe. Le quorum est donc atteint, a indiqué jeudi à Tunis, le secrétaire de l'organisation. Les pays, qui ont notifié officiellement leur accord, sont la Tunisie, les Emirats, le Liban, la Libye, la Mauritanie, le Qatar, l'Algérie, le Soudan, la Jordanie, Djibouti et l'OLP. Bahrein et l'Irak se sont, pour leur part, déclarés «favorables» à un tel sommet.

Shamir. Le président israélien, Haim Herzog, a officiellement chargé vendredi matin Yitzhak Shamir, numéro 1 du Likoud (droite nationaliste) de former un nouveau gouvernement. «Mon premier objectif est la formation d'un gouvernement stable. Je sais que ce ne sera pas une tâche facile», a déclaré M. Shamir, 75 ans, actuel chef du cabinet de transition, depuis la chute de la coalition Likoud-Parti travailliste, le 15 mars dernier. Le chef de la droite israélienne a exclu «pour le moment la création d'un nouveau gouvernement d'union nationale avec la formation de Shimon Peres.

Fermeture. Le Saint-Sépulcre a été solennellement fermé vendredi matin à samedi midi, en même temps que les 150 autres lieux saints de Terre Sainte, depuis le Mont des Oliviers jusqu'en Galilée en passant par Nazareth et Bethléem, alors que toutes les cloches de Jérusalem sonnaient, en protestation contre l'occupation, le 11 avril dernier, d'un hospice grec-orthodoxe par 150 colons juifs américains. Cette fermeture, sans précédent dans les temps modernes, avait été décidée lundi dernier par les communautés chrétiennes d'Israël et de Palestine, bien que la Cour Suprême de l'Etat hébreu ait partiellement ordonné raison au patriarche grec-orthodoxe, propriétaire des lieux, en ordonnant jeudi l'évacuation du bâtiment.

Réouverture. L'ambassade de France à Kaboul, fermée pour raisons de sécurité en février 1989, réouvrira le mois prochain. Un chargé d'affaires par interim en assurera la direction, dans un premier temps, a précisé jeudi à Paris le gouvernement français.

Attentat. Oskar Lafontaine, candidat du Parti social-démocrate ouest-allemand (PSD) à la chancellerie, a été victime d'un attentat mercredi à Cologne lors d'un meeting électoral. Une Allemande de l'Ouest, âgée de 42 ans, lui a porté un coup de couteau, qui a sectionné l'artère jugulaire droite. Opéré pendant deux heures, M. Lafontaine était jeudi «hors de danger» selon ses médecins. L'attentat serait l'acte «prémédité d'une psychopathe, a affirmé le même jour la police ouest-allemande.

Mitterrand-Kohl. Le président François Mitterrand et le chancelier Kohl ont affirmé jeudi à Paris la ferme détermination de la France et de la RFA à faire avancer ensemble l'union politique européenne, à un moment de l'histoire que les deux hommes ont jugé «décisifs». Au cours de la conférence de presse qui clôturait le 55ème sommet franco-allemand, l'un et l'autre ont affirmé leur convergence de vues sur «tous les dossiers», soulignant «le sentiment de forte entente» et «l'excellent climat» de leur rencontre.

Chiffres. Les prix à la consommation en France ont augmenté de 0,3% en mars, après une hausse de 0,2% en février, selon l'indice définitif de l'Institut national d'études statistiques (INSEE). De son côté, le chômage a augmenté de 0,4% le mois dernier, repassant au-dessus de la barre des 2,5 millions de sans emploi, a annoncé également avant-hier le ministère français du Travail.

Mandela. Le vice-président du Congrès national africain (ANC) a accepté de se rendre à Dublin en juillet prochain, à l'invitation du parlement irlandais. Nelson Mandela, qui avait été fait citoyen d'honneur de la capitale de l'EIRE en septembre 1988, alors qu'il était toujours en prison, devrait officiellement recevoir cette distinction entre le 1er et le 3 juillet.

Direct. Salman Rushdie, l'écrivain britannique auteur des "Versets Sataniques", a accordé vendredi sa première interview en direct depuis la sentence de mort prononcée à son encontre en février 1988 par l'imam Khomeiny. Rushdie a indiqué à la BBC, qu'il ne renoncerait pas à ses idées et qu'il continuerait d'écrire en ignorant les menaces.

Sida. Le directeur de l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé (OMS) a estimé jeudi à Genève que le nombre de personnes infectées par le virus du sida dans le monde était compris entre 6 et 8 millions, dont environ 600.000 malades. Le Dr Hiroshi Nakajima a indiqué que la maladie progressait encore en Afrique et dans quelques pays d'Asie du Sud-Est.

Strangeways. La plus longue mutinerie de l'histoire pénitentiaire britannique s'est achevée mercredi soir à Manchester (nord du pays) par la reddition des cinq derniers mutins de la prison de Strangeways. Après avoir patienté 25 jours, les autorités britanniques avaient changé d'attitude le même jour, en décidant d'utiliser la force pour reprendre le contrôle de l'établissement. 150 gardiens en tenue anti-émeute avaient repris dans la matinée les bâtiments dévastés, obligeant les irrédutibles à se réfugier sur le toit de la chapelle. La mutinerie aurait fait deux victimes, dont un gardien, décédé le 5 avril d'une crise cardiaque.

Diamant. Le diamant de 24 carats "Lune de Baroda", qu'avait porté Marilyn Monroe pour faire la promotion du film "Les Hommes préfèrent les Blondes" a atteint le prix de 297.000 dollars jeudi à New York au cours d'une vente aux enchères de Christie's. La somme atteinte a nettement dépassé les 120.000 dollars, auxquels le bijou avait été estimé.

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Rapport de la Banque mondiale

La Méditerranée quasi sinistrée

Pollué et en voie de surpeuplement, le bassin méditerranéen devient doucement mais sûrement une région écologiquement sinistrée, selon un rapport commun de la Banque mondiale et de la Banque européenne d'investissement, qui plaide en faveur d'un programme d'action.

«Le moment est venu de faire plus», a plaidé le 20 avril à Rome l'un des responsables de la Banque mondiale. S'exprimant à l'occasion de la présentation d'un rapport commun à son institution et à la Banque européenne d'investissement (BEI), Thierry Baudouin a souligné volontairement l'alarme: la dégradation écologique, dont est victime le bassin méditerranéen, va inexorablement entraver le développement économique des pays du sud et de l'est de cette région du monde.

Le document fait le point de deux années d'études et offre, il est vrai, un constat plutôt inquiétant de la situation naturelle de la Méditerranée. Environ 650.000 tonnes de pétrole sont déversées annuellement dans la mer, peut-être dix-sept fois le volume perdu par l'Exxon Valdez en Alaska, qui constitue pourtant à ce jour la plus grande catastrophe écologique survenue aux Etats-Unis. La pollution et la surexploitation des ressources de la Méditerranée, estime encore le rapport, ont réduit de 80% les stocks de poissons en certains endroits.

Par ailleurs, les marais, véritables réservoirs biologiques, disparaissent rapidement. Les réserves d'eau douce s'épuisent et 80% des bassins fluviaux sont pollués. Les villes côtières, qui plus est, produisent chaque jour un million de mètres cubes de déchets solides, dont une partie se retrouve en mer. 550 tonnes de résidus de produits chimiques de traitement pour l'agriculture viennent s'y ajouter chaque année.

Tout en dressant ce sombre bilan, les deux banques se proposent de venir en aide aux pays concernés pour établir des projets de sauvegarde de l'environnement ou des programmes de dépollution. Elles envisagent en outre de consacrer une part croissante de leurs prêts traditionnels (4 milliards de dollars par an) au financement de ce type d'action.

La pollution de l'eau, la disparition des terres agricoles sous la pression de l'urbanisation, la destruction des sites... auront des effets négatifs sur le développement économique des pays du sud et de l'est du bassin méditerranéen, assurent également les experts des deux institutions. «Nombre d'industries ont besoin d'eau pure et la dépollution coûte très cher», a notamment souligné Thierry Baudouin. L'industrie du tourisme, très importante dans plusieurs de ces pays, repose sur un patrimoine naturel qu'il faut considérer comme «une ressource non renouvelable», a-t-il poursuivi.

Si les pays du nord, Espagne, France et Italie, restent les principaux fauteurs de troubles dans la pollution de la mer méditerranée, le pire risque de résulter de la pression démographique dans les

pays du sud mais aussi de la partie orientale du bassin. La population devrait en effet y doubler, d'ici 35 ans, passant de 82 millions actuellement à quelque 170 en l'an 2025.

Le manque de prise de conscience des dangers de la part du grand public demeure l'un des freins principaux à toute action d'envergure, selon les spécialistes.

En matière de prévention, le coût est relativement faible, financièrement, mais élevé, politiquement, tandis que les opérations de dépollution sont hors de prix mais sans problème sur le plan politique (...). Il faut trouver un équilibre entre les deux», a ainsi fait remarquer Thierry Baudouin.

La Banque mondiale, la BEI et avec elles l'Agence des Nations Unies pour le Développement (PNUD) ainsi que la CEE se sont d'ores et déjà dites prêtes à faciliter le financement de projets écologiques. Les experts de ces deux organismes internationaux tablent sur des subventions potentielles de 5 à 6 milliards de dollars dans les cinq prochaines années. (D'après agences)

Portrait de l'acteur Gérard Depardieu

Le voyou de charme du cinéma français

A 41 ans, Gérard Depardieu affiche déjà plus de soixante films. Une carrière, à peine commencée, qu'il n'aurait jamais imaginée au début des années 1960. Années de vagabondage, de chaparde et de comp de poing...

La crudité subversive du voyou des "Valseuses", la fado de Cyrano, la fougue de Danton, la brutalité inspirée de Rodin, l'ambiguïté de Tartuffe... Avec une soixantaine de tournages à son actif en moins de 15 ans de carrière, Gérard Depardieu s'est peu à peu hissé au tout premier rang. Comédien français fétiche de cette fin de siècle, il séduit les publics de tous âges, de toutes origines sociales.

Personne, particulièrement Depardieu, n'aurait pu imaginer une telle carrière dans les années 1960. Né en 1948, en province, le petit Gérard se retrouve au sein d'une famille très pauvre. «On ne mangeait de la viande que les premiers jours du mois, quand tombaient les allocations familiales», se souvient-il. Ses parents: un père buveur et une mère continuellement enceinte. «Je l'ai toujours connue avec le ventre plein, ce gros ventre qui prenait toute la place dans un appartement à pièces trop étroites», raconte Gérard Depardieu.

Sa jeunesse devient vite tumultueuse. A 12 ans, il commet sa première fugue. Puis c'est l'enfer: il vagabonde, chaparde,

ou encore la bosse de "Jean de Florette", signé Claude Berri.

Avec brio, il se glisse dans la peau du gangster implacable, du chanteur de rock plaqué par la femme de sa vie, du résistant, du paranoïaque, qui se tranche le sexe un soir de crise... Drôle ou pathétique, pitoyable ou magnifique, Depardieu reste le même, avec ses épaules de lutteur, sa gueule de "paysan-acteur", ses tatouages indélébiles.

Tous les grands réalisateurs le font tourner: Truffaut ("Le Dernier Métro"), Vigne ("Le Retour de Martin Guerre"), Blier ("Tenne de Soirée"), Pialat ("Police"), Beineix ("La Lune dans le Caniveau"), Sautet ("Vincenzo, François, Paul et les Autres"), Tréché ("Barocco")... Les cinéastes étrangers, tels Bertolucci, Ferreri, Wajda, Comencini, font appel à lui. Récemment, il a même tourné en Inde, sous la direction de Satyajit Ray. Depuis il a aussi pris le risque de travailler pour des réalisateurs réputés difficiles, comme Alain Resnais ("Mon Oncle d'Amérique") et Marguerite Duras ("Le Camion").

L'acteur est servi par des dons



devient chef de bande, joue les terribles à coups de poings, à coups de chaîne de vélo. Jusqu'à ce jour de 1965, où on lui confie un rôle dans un court métrage de Roger Leenhardt, "Le Beaulieu et le Minet". Depardieu a 17 ans. Il découvre le plaisir de jouer, et de nouveaux copains, jeunes comédiens, qui l'entraînent sur les planches du théâtre.

Il tourne son deuxième film en 1971. C'est l'énorme succès des "Valseuses", de Bertrand Blier. La critique, unanime, salue «le nouveau voyou de charme du cinéma français», et l'acteur le plus doué de sa génération. Dès lors, submergé de propositions, Depardieu s'invente totalement dans les personnages les plus divers.

Il campe les "paumés", les violents, les désaxés, les tragi-comiques. Il endosse avec la même aisance l'uniforme d'officier de spahis dans "Fort Sagame" d'Alain Corneau, la combinaison matelassée du dresseur de chiens, dans "Les Chiens" de Jessia, la blouse de chirurgien dans le film de Ruffalo "Sept Morts sur Ordonnance",

précieux. Et d'abord, une mémoire étonnante: il lit une seule fois un texte de plusieurs pages et le sait déjà par cœur. C'est un bourreau de travail, un boulimique de tournages, qui adore les aventures artistiques. Tant celles que représentent les changements d'emplois et de registres, que celles qu'impliquent la confiance qu'il accorde à des metteurs en scène inconnus.

A 41 ans, Gérard Depardieu a déjà derrière lui une carrière exceptionnelle. Loin d'être finie, sans doute. Mais il reste égal à lui-même. Ennemis des conformismes professionnels, fuyant le "monde", et surtout celui du "show biz", il vit à l'écart, en milieu de sa famille. Avec sa femme, Elisabeth, et ses deux enfants, Julie et Guillaume. Sa maison de Chatou, près de Paris, retentit des échos d'homériques agapes, copieusement arrosées, avec les copains qui lui sont aussi nécessaires que l'oxygène. «Malgré le temps et les honneurs, lance-t-il, on ne peut pas changer les rayures du zébre».

Pierre-Albert Lambert.

Marche du 1er juin

50.000 personnes attendues

Près de 50.000 personnes favorables à la paix entre Israël et les Palestiniens, notamment des hommes de religion et des personnalités internationales, devraient participer du 1er au 5 juin à la "marche pour la paix en Palestine", qui ambitionne de relier Amman à Jérusalem. Cette manifestation doit marquer le 25ème anniversaire de la guerre arabo-Israélienne de 1967, notamment «la chute de la Ville Sainte», a précisé le week-end dernier Nidal Sukhman, responsable de la section jordanienne du Comité arabo-américain contre la discrimination, organisateur de la marche.

L'entrepreneur jordanien s'est montré confiant dans la réussite de ce projet sans précédent, formulant l'espoir que les Israéliens choisissent la marche afin d'atteindre son objectif sans Jérusalem occupée. Les principaux thèmes de cette manifestation, a-t-il dit, étant «la démolition du mur de peur et d'hostilité entre les Arabes et Israéliens, et la volonté de mettre au point un règlement négocié du conflit».

Le Comité a par ailleurs invité Yasser Arafat à prendre la tête de la marche, on indiquant mercredi à Tunis les proches du chef de l'OLP.

A L'AFFICHE

FOCUS

La mort du saxophoniste Dexter Gordon

Un monument du jazz

A la fin de chaque morceau, Dexter Gordon, quand il jouait sur scène, saluait son public en inclinant la tête en tenant son saxophone ténor à l'horizontale et en l'élevant devant lui comme une offrande. C'était sa marque de fabrique, un signe de reconnaissance avec les spectateurs.

Surnommé "Long Tall" en raison de son mètre quatre-vingt dix, Dexter Gordon, décédé mercredi à Philadelphie d'un cancer du larynx, était né à Los Angeles il y a 67 ans. Fils d'un médecin, qui comptait Duke Ellington et Lionel Hampton parmi ses patients, ce fou de musique fut une révélation précoce. D'abord à la clarinette, puis au saxo alto, avant qu'il adopte le ténor. A 20 ans, il avait déjà joué dans les clubs locaux, puis avec les plus grands musiciens du jazz, commençant dans les big bands, comme celui de Lionel Hampton, avec lequel il resta trois ans, ou encore ceux de Louis Armstrong et Billy Eckstine.

Dans les années 1940, il participe à la grande aventure du "bebop", lancée par Lester Young et Charlie Parker. C'est alors que se forge le style de Gordon. Il se tourne alors vers de petites formations, jouant notamment en sextet avec Parker et Miles Davis. Installé soit à Los Angeles, soit à New York, il multiplie les enregistrements avec le premier, mais aussi avec les trompettistes Dizzy Gillespie et Fats Navarro.

Dexter Gordon connaîtra cependant des jours sombres dans les années 1950, dans la foulée de la baisse de popularité du "bebop". Le musicien passera même deux ans dans une prison de Californie pour une affaire de drogue. En 1962, il quitte son pays natal pour Paris. Il passera 14 ans en Europe, d'abord en France, puis au Danemark, dans les milieux de musiciens de jazz exilés. Ceux-là même qui ont inspiré au cinéaste français Bertrand Tavernier le film "Round Midnight".

En 1960, Dexter Gordon avait fait du théâtre et commencé à enregistrer une série d'albums avec le célèbre label de jazz Blue Note. Il en enregistrera cinq, de 1961 à 1963, dont "Dexter Gordon", qui illustre la diversité de son style. Parmi les autres disques du

saxophoniste, on se doit encore de citer "Long Tall Dexter", "Our Man in Paris", "Go", "Homecoming", "A Swinging Affair", "Swiss Nights" ou encore "More than you know".

En 1987, Dexter Gordon, rentré aux Etats-Unis 11 ans plus tôt, est le premier musicien à être sélectionné par les milieux du cinéma d'Hollywood pour l'Oscar du meilleur acteur dans "Round Midnight", qui évoque l'amitié entre un Parisien passionné de jazz et un musicien américain.

Le film de Bertrand Tavernier, dédié au pianiste Bud Powell et à Lester Young, est aussi semi-autobiographique pour Gordon. Le saxophoniste, qui prête sa longue silhouette et sa voix rauque à un personnage de musicien ravagé par l'alcool et la drogue, se félicitera de l'avoir tourné. «C'est l'apogée de ma vie», déclare-t-il.

En raison de ses annus de santé, Dexter Gordon ne se produisit plus sur scène depuis quelques années. Il venait de finir le tournage d'un nouveau film "Awakenings", avec Robert de Niro et Robin Williams, quand la mort l'a emporté.

EXPOSITIONS

Mathématique en Méditerranée. Prêtée par le musée d'histoire de Marseille, l'exposition se compose de panneaux retraçant l'aventure des maths depuis les tablettes babyloniennes jusqu'au théorème de Fermat (numération, théorie des nombres, équations algébriques, géométrie, astronomie...).

Centre culturel français, dernier jour ce dimanche 29 avril. Entrée libre. Tél: 636445.

Cosmos. La Terre, le Soleil, la Lune... ont été et restent des sujets de perpétuelles observations, de questionnement. En témoigne cette exposition, en forme d'histoire des représentations humaines de l'univers, de l'Antiquité à nos jours.

Centre culturel français, du 2 au 13 mai. Inauguration mercredi.

Peinture. Les artistes jordanien Adnan Yihya, Ghada Dahdaleh, Larisa Najjar, Mohammed Samara et Rula Al-Shukri, présentent leurs dernières toiles.

Centre des expositions de la Fondation Shoukri (Shoukri), du 8 mai au 7 juin. Ouvert tous les jours, sauf le vendredi.

CONFERENCES

Graffiti dans le Wadi Rum. Professeur à l'Institut d'anthropologie de l'université de Florence (Italie), Edoardo de Borzatti présente l'état de nos connaissances sur les inscriptions humaines, qui ornent les rochers du Wadi Rum, dans le sud-est jordanien.

XWCA (Jebel Amman, troisième cercle), samedi 5 mai à 19h00. Entrée libre.

JEUX

Mots croisés

par Florence Moutel

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

Horizontalement.

1: pour départager. 2: pronom personnel; lettre grecque. 3: réprouvé par la morale. 4: exprime. 5: pour le fil et les aiguilles. 6: refus anglais; interjection. 7: fauto. 8: mesure; 100 m2. 9: spécialité; satellite de la Terre. 10: coupe le petit bois; époques.

Verticalement.

A: elles vivent à l'est du Rhin. B: sans le sou; tente. C: chapeaux à deux pointes. D: toujours. E: réprimande; article. F: fait partie des épreuves de gymnastique. G: copain; repart le bulletin de vote. H: peu; brûler. I: instruments de musique.

(Solution la semaine prochaine)

Solution de la grille N. 7:

Horizontalement.
1: coloration. 2: inamical. 3: ri; bruler. 4: tracteur. 5: un; gît. 6: la; glanage. 7: armées; le. 8: ir; miré. 9: Ré; set. 10: peindre.

Verticalement.
A: circulaire. B: ONU; narre. C: la. D: ombreux. E: rix; le. F: acacias; se. G: tant; mer. H: illogique. I: ériger. J: rate; est.

CINEMA

Cinéma "Beur". Le centre culturel français présente au mois de mai trois longs métrages réalisés par de jeunes arabes de France.

"Le Thé au Harem d'Archiède", de Mehdi Charaf, avec Kader Boukhanef et Rémi Martin (1986). Chronique d'une banlieue parisienne ordinaire, où s'affrontent plus que ne se côtoient mystères français et immigrés.

Centre culturel français, lundi 7 mai à 20h00 (en français, sous-titré en arabe).

Ciné-club. Programme non communiqué pour la semaine du 29 avril au 5 mai. Renseignements au 603901.

Route de l'université de Jérusalem. Première à droite après l'hôtel Jérusalem, puis première à gauche. Le club-club se trouve à environ 300 mètres, sur la gauche de la route.

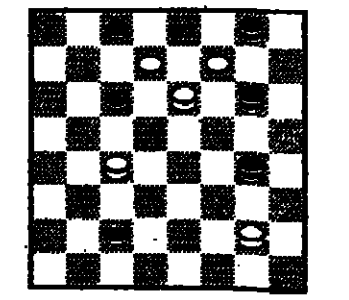
LE SAVIEZ-VOUS ?

DIFFERER LA MORT. Certaines personnes au seuil de la mort parviennent à la différer brièvement par la seule volonté de leur esprit, selon une étude faite par des chercheurs californiens auprès de plusieurs milliers de sujets. Les résultats de leur enquête montrent ainsi que la mortalité des hommes juifs chute de 24% juste avant la Pâque juive, pour augmenter d'autant dans la semaine qui suit la célébration. De même pour les vieilles femmes chinoises, dont la mortalité baisse de 35% avant la fête annuelle des moissons et de la pleine lune. Selon les chercheurs, ces chiffres suggèrent fortement que des humains sont capables de retarder la mort en attendant une occasion psychologique importante pour eux et qu'il pourrait exister une interaction encore inexploitée entre le psychisme et la biologie dans ce domaine.

PALME. Le "Financial Times" a décerné la semaine dernière son président français François Mitterrand le titre de meilleur dirigeant monétaire, dans un éditorial soulignant les bonnes perspectives économiques de la France en ce début des années 1990. «Quelle est la dirigeant d'un grand pays, jadis prodigue, qui a été le plus disposé à accepter un taux de chômage élevé afin de débarrasser son pays du fléau de l'inflation?», interroge le quotidien américain. «Monsieur Thatcher est la réponse qui paraît la plus évidente, mais elle n'est pas la bonne. La palme du meilleur monétaire revient à M. Mitterrand», assure le journal des milieux d'affaires.

DAMES

Problème N. 3

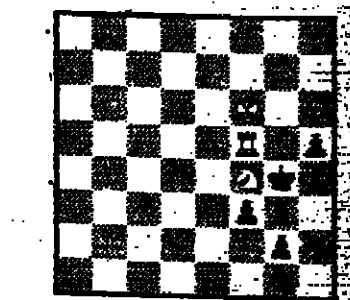


Les blancs gagnent en quatre coups.

Solution du problème N. 7:
B. 7-11; N. 26-12; B. 20-15; N. 31-13; B. 11-2; N. 25-18; B. 2-6; N. 12-19; B. 6-15.

ECHECS

Problème N. 8



Mit avec les blancs en deux coups.

Solution du problème N. 7:
De7-g3.

PASSEZ-MOI MON FRANCAIS

La rubrique de Flavia Romero

Paradis perdu

Ave Egeria!

J'ai tardé à te décrire la dernière partie de ma ballade dans le pays (Azraq et châteaux), parce que ce que j'ai à dire n'est pas agréable et il me coûte cher de critiquer ce pays. Je crois tout de même avoir le devoir de le faire, pour la raison même de mon attachement profond à cette terre.

Azraq est un choc. Nécessité oblige, on pompe son eau pour fournir la ville d'Amman et celle de Zarqa. On n'y voit plus que deux petits lacs, deux piscines. Les rares palmiers qui survivent ne sont pas entretenus et la vue qui se présente à nos yeux, en regardant par les fenêtres de la belle forteresse noire, est simplement révoltante: un village, qui a poussé n'importe comment, faits de bâtisses en ciment, avec les fers de la charpente qui se tendent désespérément vers le ciel, comme pour demander pardon et pitié d'être si laids.

Ce village remplace le délicieux groupe de maisonnettes toutes blanches des Chichans, qui vivaient à Azraq dans le temps. Ces habitations étaient ravissantes et ajoutaient une note charmante au paysage. Leurs portes et fenêtres étaient bleues et vertes. Quelle nostalgie!

Lawrence d'Arabie avait défini le lieu "Azraq the remote, the luminous silky Eden" (Azraq lointaine, paradis de lumière soyeuse). Il faudrait aujourd'hui traduire Eden par "paradis perdu". Azraq lointaine pour Lawrence qui venait de si loin, lointaine pour moi, dans mon souvenir.

J'étais fillette et nageait dans cet immense paradis aquatique, fait de lacs profonds et transparents, où les roseaux cachaient des centaines de nids d'oiseaux palustres. J'entends encore le bruit que faisaient les buffles blancs en s'y déplaçant à la recherche de roseaux plus tendres: un remous, un clapotis, quand les sabots des animaux: sortaient de l'emprise de la boue, pour s'y enfonce de nouveau, et le froissement des feuilles qui cédait... au passage des flancs opulents des bêtes. Le tout enveloppé par la chaleur humide et odorante du lieu.

J'ai le souvenir si présent et vif d'un jour où, prête à plonger dans l'eau profonde, en me tenant debout sur des roseaux couchés, j'ai glissé et mon pied s'est enfoncé dans le limon du fond. Le premier mouvement de dégoût éperu a vite laissé la place à une sensation extrêmement agréable: cette boue avait une consistance... crèmeuse? soyeuse?... Aucun adjectif que je connaisse ne décrit avec précision la qualité de cette caresse. Plusieurs années plus tard, j'ai retrouvé la même mollesse tendre et tiède dans le creux du bras d'un homme.

Il faudrait confier Azraq aux soins d'un architecte des jardins, pour qu'il puisse lui rendre une dignité et une beauté perdues mais encore possibles.

Je confesse ne connaître la réserve qu'on y a créée que par entendu dire et par le peu que nous montre la télévision. Je n'ai pas eu le courage de m'y rendre. C'est sûrement un lieu très important pour préserver la faune du pays, mais avec la conscience moderne de l'écologie, on pourrait tout de même faire mieux. J'ai rêvé d'un parc national sans fils barbelés et aussi grand que le territoire jordanien. La collaboration de toute la population serait nécessaire et utile, mais il faut que tout le monde se rende compte de son importance.

A ce propos, nous avons la chance d'avoir une migration de perruches, qui nous viennent d'Irak. Amman pourrait être une ville connue pour cette caractéristique charmante. On fait tous les efforts possibles pour les décimer. On les attrape, en basse ville on les voit s'attrister et perdre leurs plumes dans des cages trop petites, où elles sont entassées les unes sur les autres. Personne ne proteste. Pourquoi ne pas les aider à vivre en liberté dans nos arbres, pour la joie de tout le monde? Ce ne sont que des détails, mais c'est avec des petites briques qu'on construit des gratteciels.

Il faut surtout que nous nous mettions en tête que le pays où nous vivons est notre maison, tandis que nous avons tendance à user du pays comme d'un hôtel: s'il y a le toit qui coule, on se plaint, mais il ne nous viendra jamais à l'esprit de prendre un peu de plâtre et de réparer le dommage.

Je suis triste et un peu fâchée.

Vale Egeria!

Did she or didn't she? Dig at new pyramid solve puzzle

By Mimi Mann
Associated Press

SOUTH SAKKARA, Egypt — More than 4,200 years ago Pharaoh Pepy I heard rumours that one of his three queens was plotting against him. He sent Weni the scribe to find out.

Weni did. History didn't. But now a French-Egyptian archaeological team, digging and recording a queenly pyramid field 32 kilometres south of Cairo, is on its way to writing the final chapter on one of ancient Egypt's most tantalising stories.

"We have mention (in ancient texts) of three Pepy queens, and now we have three burials," said Bulgarian-born Egyptologist Vassil Dobrev, a member of the excavation team headed by French historian Jean Leclant. "As we search on, we'll find the answers."

Which was the questionable queen?

Weni went to his grave with the secret, leaving a record of his investigation that ended: "I know the truth."

The scribe's silence did nothing to enhance the pharaoh's reputation. Egyptologists remember Pepy I, who died in 2255 B.C. after a 34-year reign, as a shrewd leader who kept Egypt's troublesome colonies in line but failed to exercise the same hold over the queens of his harem.

The reopened investigation has been far from easy. Early grave robbers, furious peasants revolting against the pharaoh's authority and generations of stone robbers have left few clues intact. The pyramids of Pepy's queens were so ransacked that res-

tors work alongside archaeologists to minimise the danger of falling walls.

Generations of sycophantic tomb artists depicted ancient Egyptian queens as perfect mates: Beautiful, submissive, adoring.

But Zahi Hawass, director of the Pharaonic Cemeteries of Giza and Sakkarah to the south, said the story of Pepy and his allegedly conspiratorial queen shows ancient marriages weren't all picture perfect.

Especially since pharaohs had to deal with wives in multiples and in varying levels of importance, some major queens, some minor.

A pharaoh's chief queen, consort of a god, received special privileges, including the title "great royal wife." Because of the number of fellow royal offspring, a young pharaoh-to-be often married his sister for a more legitimate right to the throne.

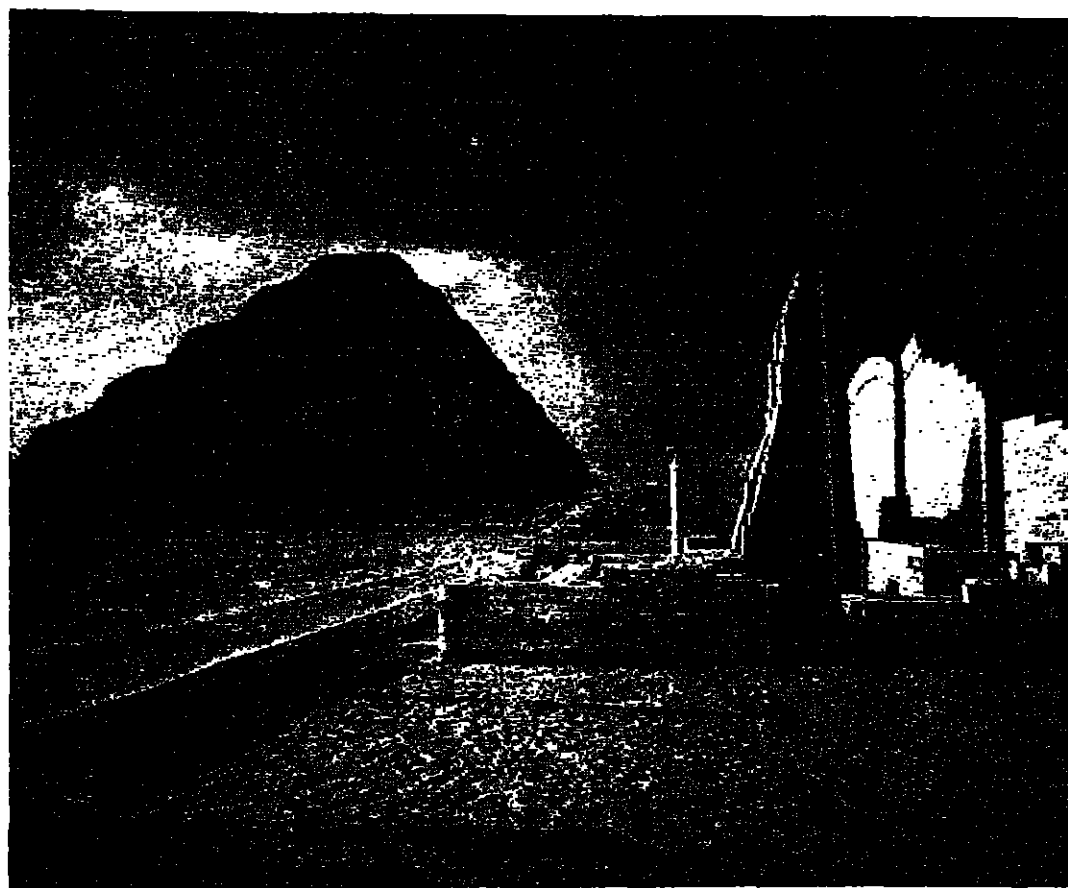
A few queens even managed to rule Egypt.

"We can understand the queens' importance by their tombs," said director Hawass. "The largest was the pharaoh's tomb. After all, he ruled Egypt. His tomb had to show that power."

"But directly after his tomb in size came the queens', then the princes', then the nobles' and officials'. A cemetery easily shows their ranks in life."

With so much riding on success, allegations of a place conspiracy by a main queen was taken seriously, so seriously that Weni was allowed inside the forbidden harem to investigate the rumours.

But Hawass said Weni left no record of the suspect queen's name, referring to



her only as a "main consort" of the pharaoh.

Until the current expedition, the only names of Pepy's wives known were those of Ankh-Nes-Meryre I, then when she died, Ankh-Nes-Meryre II. Both were recorded by an official named Khui, who said the king married two of his family members. It's unlikely either sister would have been the main queen, however. Their blood wasn't royal enough.

So who was Pepy's black queen? The joint expedition, just ending this season's digging, first came in 1965 to south Sakkarah, site of the pyramids of Pepy I and his pharaoh sons Merenre and Pepy II.

Its task was to record the last of the old kingdom's great pyramid complexes on the edge of a seven-square-kilometre stretch of desert graves spanning 3,000 years. Pepy I's pyramid proved particularly important because of intricately carved texts of spells, rituals and myths designed to help propel the soul of the dead into the afterlife.

For two decades archaeologists were too busy to look for his queens, but by 1988 high technology was available to help in the search. Experts combed 50 acres (20 hectares) of rubble-strewn dunes adjacent to Pepy's pyramid with ultrasound equipment developed in France to locate suitable sites for nuclear reactors.

Soundings monitored by technicians from the French utility Electricite de France pinpointed two good possibilities. The team started down, and out came two queens' pyramids.

Then last year a portion of a third pyramid was found, wedged between the first two and roughly the same size, about 20 metres tall.

Three pyramids. Three queens.

Early this year diggers began excavating the third pyramid, uncovering pottery shards, a chapel, a passageway and finally a disheveled burial chamber.

By the time digging ended on March 28, there were two important clues that could help solve the mystery of the

accused queen.

One was the name Nub-Net on wall reliefs, a queen unknown to Egyptologists, perhaps the royal wife Weni had described. She was buried in the pyramid.

The second clue was an empty basalt sarcophagus, its lid buried beneath two massive boulders that once closed the newly excavated burial chamber of the middle pyramid.

Egyptologist Dobrev hopes the lid, once uncovered, might contain the name of the queen and something about her, but finding out is next season's work.

Meantime, director Hawass thinks he knows what Weni the scribe left unsaid about Pepy's queen.

"Weni bragged that he alone investigated and he alone knew the truth. He had solved the problem. That's where the tale ends," Hawass said.

"I think Weni told Pepy his queen was not guilty, because Pepy would never have allowed her to be buried next to him if she had done something so evil."

Moscow — many surprises for the returning Westerner

By Oliver Watts
Reuters

MOSCOW — Pornography pedlars, rock and roll, advertising, traffic jams, wooden Mikhail Gorbachev dolls — there is plenty to shock a newly-returned Westerner who knew Moscow as it used to be.

The easiest way to get around is no longer the famous metro, but by private taxi.

You stand by the road, hail any car with space until one stops, and negotiate with the driver. A few roubles will usually get you where you want to go.

Officially, private taxi drivers have to register. In practice any car owner with time can supplement his income. The traffic police take no notice.

In the mid-1970s, however, such free enterprise would have been considered profiteering, exploitation and a serious crime.

But then many things have changed since Gorbachev came to power five years ago.

In the 1970s the Western visitor would be bombarded with "peace" propaganda from the moment he set foot at Sheremetyevo airport until his departing plane took off.

Tour guides could talk of almost nothing else. Radio, television, the newspapers were full of detailed accounts alleging that Soviet arms policy was aimed at world peace, Western policy at world domination.

Seminars, organised meetings with carefully selected groups of Soviet citizens, official contacts all hammered home the same message.

More "peace," propaganda was posted on giant slogan boards at strategic points around the Soviet capital. They are all gone today, along with the rest of the campaign.

So have other slogans telling of the supposed inevitability of world Communism or superiority of the socialist system.

Even the celebrated "Communism equals Soviet power plus the electrification of the whole country" adorning the antiquated power stations on the Moscow River have gone.

At first glance there seems little immediate evidence of the political upheaval since Gorbachev took over, apart from the missing slogans and incongruous

Pepsi Cola signs.

Until, that is, you pass the Pushkin Theatre to discover posters for an adaption of Dostoevsky's "The Devils," a savage attack on the 19th-century revolutionaries revered in conventional Communist history.

Or pick up a magazine to find serialised in it "The Gulag Archipelago," the exiled Alexander Solzhenitsyn's denunciation of political persecution under Soviet Communism.

Or stroll down the Arbat pedestrian precinct and find street theatre openly mocking food shortages and Gorbachev's reforms, and even poking fun at the Soviet leader himself.

Or stop to listen to a surprisingly skilled Dixieland jazz band, earning themselves a few extra roubles by entertaining Saturday afternoon shoppers in a central street.

Or go shopping at the weekend fair at Izmailovsky Park where

independent "cooperative" restaurants where the food is good, the service sometimes quick and the waitresses even smile at customers.

In the past there were no hawkers selling photographs of near-naked women outside metro stations, no demonstrations by independent political movements, no Russian Orthodox priest preaching brief sermons on Sundays on state television.

There was no rock music on the radio, no Olivetti advertisement on the clock counting down to the main evening television news, no McDonalds hamburger restaurant with queues of hundreds waiting outside.

But one change is obvious from the moment you leave the airport. The traffic is getting out of hand.

No longer can those lucky enough to own a car zip from one side of the city to the other in 20 minutes through half-empty

At first glance there seems little immediate evidence of the political upheaval since Gorbachev took over, apart from the missing slogans and incongruous Pepsi Cola signs. Until, that is, you pass the Pushkin Theatre to discover posters for an adaption of Dostoevsky's "The Devils," a savage attack on the 19th-century revolutionaries revered in conventional Communist history.

hundreds of Soviet craftsmen, amateur and professional, come to sell exquisitely painted palekh-style boxes, trays, pottery, paintings and other handicrafts.

For 400 roubles (\$70 at the new tourist exchange rate) you can buy a set of Russian Matryoshka dolls with a difference — first Gorbachev, inside him Leonid Brezhnev, then Nikita Khrushchev, Josef Stalin and Vladimir Lenin.

None of this could have been seen or even imagined 15, 10 or even five years ago.

Theatre productions and publications were state-controlled and censors ruthlessly excised anything critical of the Communist system or the leadership. Private enterprise was limited to garden produce at the local market.

Even Moscow's notoriously bad restaurant life has begun to change with the opening of a few

streets even in the middle of the day.

Moscow still has some way to go before its traffic jams are comparable with big Western cities. But rush hour is now a reality, the number of vehicles has increased many times over.

Moscovites are no longer the law-abiding drivers they used to be. They would not yet feel at home in Rio de Janeiro or Rome, but they are fast learning to weave, creep up traffic lights and the other tricks of the aggressive city driver.

The roads are collapsing under the strain, sprinkled with axle-shattering potholes. The traffic police, once implacable and ubiquitous, cannot cope.

One thing has not changed. Soviet tourists still line up across Red Square to file past Lenin's tomb.

The queue at McDonalds is longer.

Churches reopen

Continued from page 1

Old City with its Muslim and Christian quarters.

Sabbah, a Palestinian and the first Arab to hold the post, said the aim was to bring to world attention the difficult co-existence of Jews and non-Jews in Jerusalem.

"Our duty is to draw this to the attention of all concerned and the rest we leave in the hands of God," he said.

Czech demand

Czechoslovakian President Vachar Havel left Israel Friday with empty hands, having no answer for Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and no guarantee that Soviet Jewish immigrants would not settle in occupied lands.

Havel, the first Eastern European leader to visit the Jewish state since its creation 42 years ago, intended to mediate between Palestinian and Israeli leaders to push the U.S. peace plan forward.

Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), had asked Havel to tell the Israeli government that he wanted to start negotiations based on the U.S. peace proposal.

The Israeli government took the opportunity to advance their efforts to expand the number of transit points for Soviet Jewish immigration.

Havel showed readiness to open a direct air link for the immigrants between Czechoslovakia and Israel. However, he said he would like an Israeli assurance that the Soviet Jews would not settle in occupied lands.

"Czechoslovakia would welcome some political guarantee, or at least an expression of hope that such immigrants would not be settled in occupied territories," Havel told reporters in his farewell press conference.

Avi Pazner, aide to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said that Havel did not ask for guarantees when discussing the possibility of Czechoslovakia becoming the newest stopover for Soviet Jews.

"We told President Havel of our own initiative that only one half of one per cent of the immigrants go into the territories and he was satisfied with that," Pazner told the Associated Press.

Dark sun in Silesia

By Bezzina Kastory

KATOWICE, Poland — The buildings of Katowice are dark grey or black with soot, and the sun seldom peeks through the deep layers of polluted atmosphere. "There are no blondes in Silesia," says a taxi driver as a sad joke, "here all is black, even the women's hair."

The railway station has sunk almost a metre into the ground over recent years. The same thing has happened to the viaducts in the centre of the town and to the blackened cathedral.

In some parts of the town, there are buildings now three metres lower than the levels on which they were built. Under the town, the earth trembles. Lime peels from ceilings and falls. Water and other pipes burst and railway tracks bend and twist.

These are the tribulations of a mining town which is the provincial capital of Silesia, an industrial region in southern Poland. Every year, thousands of letters complaining about mining-induced damage reach the government commission responsible for assessing claims. Most are very much like that of Roza Paczynska who wrote: "I was terrified when I noticed deep cracks in the walls of my house. Through the crevices I could hear the machines working. The vibrations deep in the ground caused the cracks to get deeper and deeper."

Katowice, as well as the rest of Upper Silesia, lies above rich seams of coal. Although the region constitutes only a small percentage of Poland's land area, it produces 90% of its coal. This coal has become the curse of Silesia.

The Polish economy is highly dependent on coal, instead of developing high-tech industries based on brain power, the Stalinist industrial model concentrated on mineral extraction and heavy industry.

To get the coal out faster, a new method — extraction "by collapse" — was devised. Large horizontal tunnels are dug inside the coal bed and the coal layers allowed to collapse.

Above ground, quakes destroy buildings everywhere in Silesia. In Bytom, in the north west, 2,200 buildings have been damaged over the last few years. Among them are the opera house, the post office, several schools and hospitals. The mayor

of the town could put his whole fist through a cleft in the wall of his town hall office.

Twenty years ago, about 100 million tonnes of coal were deliberately left intact under Katowice for safety reasons. But not for long. The policy was abandoned and huge mining machines passed twice under the city, each time stripping off a 3 metre layer of coal and stone. The empty space was filled with sand but this was inadequate and the town began to sink.

But the unruly earth under the feet of Silesia's people is only one of their many torments. Silesia is also poisoning its people.

Silesians become ill more seriously and more often than other Poles, and die younger. This is not surprising though the former regime tried to suppress

health in Silesia with the rest of Poland.

According to the Silesian Medical Academy, pulmonary respiratory diseases are more common, pregnant women more prone to health complications and miscarriages a third higher in Silesia than elsewhere.

"People living in Katowice are exposed from birth to huge amounts of carcinogenic substances," says Professor Chorazy of the Cancer Institute in Gliwice. "There are places in Katowice region where a kilogramme of toxics fall annually on one square metre. You can imagine how the soil is destroyed. It looks more like black grease than normal soil. No fruit or vegetables should be grown here. Everything around is contaminated."

The results are seen in new

SILESIA is one of the worst polluted industrial areas in the world. Only now that information is freely circulating in Poland are the health consequences for local inhabitants being analysed and honestly reported.

such knowledge. Foundries and factories burning coal spew poisons into the air. More than 80% of Poland's air pollution is produced by 100 industrial plants, most of them in Upper Silesia.

Arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead mercury and hydrocarbons are all released into the air in quantities much beyond permitted levels. Dust precipitation in Katowice is six times the allowed norm. It can reach 35 times the safe level. Lead exceeds the limit by a factor of 200. At least 20 harmful compounds exceed safe limits.

The former regime claimed there was no evidence that a contaminated environment negatively affects human health — an assertion which is easily demolished by comparing levels of

diagnosed cancer cases — at 300 per 100,000 people a year, it is one of the highest in the world.

Under the new non-Communist government, remedial action is at last being taken. No new plants can be opened in Silesia and existing ones must fit anti-pollution systems. Local environmentalists are developing a monitoring programme and citizens demand relocation of schools and hospitals out of contaminated regions. There are demands for medical checks for all Silesians and for food to be imported from cleaner parts of Poland.

But the task is enormous and heavily indebted Poland lacks the financial resources at government, local factory levels to tackle these problems expeditiously — Pinos feature.

MAP

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لزيادة من المعلومات يرجى الاتصال بمكتب 711-70

U.S. removes Japan from 'hit-list' Japanese pleased, but war not over

WASHINGTON (AP) — Japan saw a battle won in not being named an unfair merchant by the United States this year, but politicians and businessmen in both countries said the trade war is not over.

Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said in a statement on Saturday that Japan welcomed the U.S. decision "as the proper one."

"It has been the policy of the government of Japan that economic issues between Japan and the United States should be resolved through dialogue in the spirit of cooperation and joint efforts," he said.

The dispute involves the toughest section of the 1988 trade law, known as Super 301. Under the Super 301 provision, if intensive negotiations aimed at removing trade barriers are unsuccessful, the president has the power to retaliate with higher U.S. tariffs on imports from the offending country.

Last year Japan, Brazil and India were cited under Super 301. President George Bush announced Friday that this year he had decided to cite only India as a "priority nation" under Super 301.

India has steadfastly refused to modify its restrictive trade policies, which are designed to protect domestic industries by limiting foreign investment and imposing high import duties.

Ever since India first was targeted, the governments of Ra-

jeev Gandhi, prime minister from 1984 through 1989, and V.P. Singh, who took office last December, have maintained that the U.S. trade law unfairly penalized developing nations.

On Saturday, the Indian government had not yet responded to Bush's announcement.

Bush said he was citing only India this year because of that country's refusal to remove its barriers to foreign investment and foreign insurance companies. Bush said Japan and Brazil had made moves to open their markets.

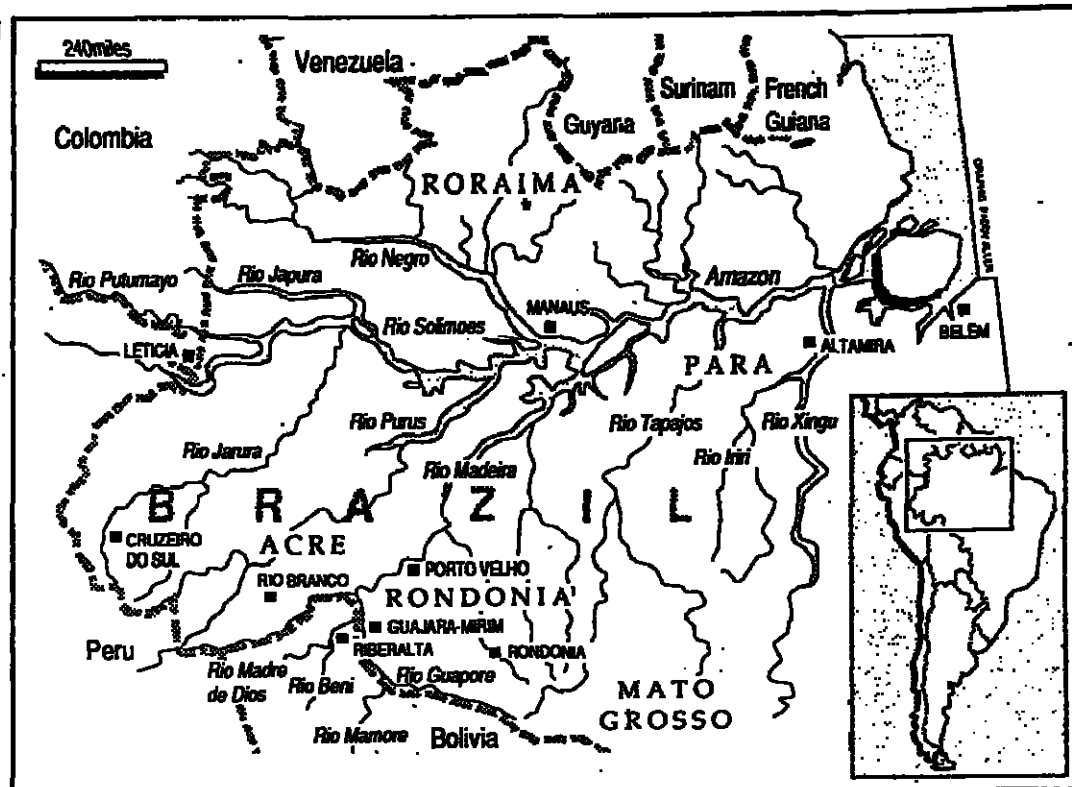
But in an editorial Saturday, Japan's nationally circulated Asahi Shimbun said U.S. retaliation may still come if Japan can show only little improvement in opening its market.

Nakayama promised Japan will continue to promote good economic relations with the United States and cooperate in the Uruguay round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

But lawmakers in the United States were not convinced that Bush should have eased the pressure on Japan.

"Letting Japan off the hook is a serious mistake and I think Congress ought to take a look at it," said Sen. Robert Byrd, a Democrat. Bush is a Republican, but Democrats control the U.S. Senate.

The Super 301 provision was due to expire after this year, but several members of Congress said they planned to push for it to be



Brazil's Collor plan meets growing scepticism

By Stephen Powell
Reuters

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL — Brazil's daredevil president has promised his mother, worried about her son's love of dangerous sports, that he will no longer ride motorcycles.

But those anxious about Fernando Collor de Mello's equally high-risk style of economic management are still in suspense, concerned that his anti-inflation plan may be heading for a spill.

On March 16, his second day in office, Collor froze most of the money belonging to individuals and private companies for an average of 24 months. The aim was to kill annual inflation of nearly 5,000 per cent by starving the country of cash.

Industrialists say that as a result of his programme, industry is operating at 25 per cent capacity in Sao Paulo state, the dynamo of the Brazilian economy.

The public, weary of inflation, is supporting Collor and accepting heavy sacrifices. But as the weeks pass, experts have become sceptical of Collor's chances of success.

The enormity of Collor's intervention in the economy initially took the country's breath away.

It was "the largest transfer of resources from private to public sector ever recorded in economic history," according to the Bank of Boston's newsletter Brazil.

The government demanded huge sacrifices from the private sector and all eyes are now on the government to see whether it does its bit by tackling the central case of inflation, excessive government spending.

The government has yet to give details of its promised privatisation programme in industry, intended to trim the huge state sector which is about two-thirds of the economy.

Some 22 state bodies, such as the Brazilian Coffee Institute (IBC), have been extinguished by Collor, but economists say the savings involved so far are modest.

The latest edition of the bi-weekly magazine Update of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Sao Paulo includes several pessimistic opinions on the Collor plan.

Political scientist Alexandre Barros offers his view that it has a 40 per cent chance of success. His scenario, considered the more likely, envisages a brutal drop in employment, violent protests, hyperinflation and a possible return to military government.

Economist Celso Martone does not rule out the possibility of the plan succeeding, but says it is more likely that Brazil will follow Argentina along the path to profound recession and disorganisation of the economy.

"What remains of private wealth frozen in new cruzados turn to dust. A classic hyperinflation sets in, leading to a political and institutional crisis," said Martone.

Collor froze the equivalent of more than \$100 billion in new cruzados in people's bank accounts and introduced a new currency, the cruzado.

Under Collor's plan, people will be allowed to withdraw their blocked money in 12 monthly instalments starting in September 1991.

Comment on the anti-inflation programme is not all negative and there is widespread agreement that with monthly inflation in March of 84 per cent the government had to take drastic action of some kind.

When Brazilians are not discussing Collor's plan these days, they talk about their young president's eccentric lifestyle.

Collor, 40, has indulged in jet-skiing, glider-flying, piloting an F-5 supersonic jet and roaring through Brasilia at 160 km an hour on a Kawasaki Ninja motorbike.

And the chief of state, who this week was named one of the world's most beautiful men by the U.S. magazine People, is now planning a trip in a submarine.

Early this week his mother Leda Collor said publicly she was worried about his "dangerous sports."

Presidential spokesman Claudio Humberto's response: "As a good son, (the president) will no longer ride motorbikes."

U.N. urges more autonomy for cities

WASHINGTON (AP) — City people and city governments must get more power to cope with the explosive growth of Third World cities, according to William H. Draper III, head of the United Nations Development Programme.

He noted that 30 cities now have populations of more than 10 million each, and more are due to reach that size.

"In many developing countries, the quality of urban life is absolutely unacceptable, and it threatens to get worse," he said Friday.

"One out of four urban dwellers today is without safe drinking water. Forty per cent lack proper sanitation. And only one-quarter of one half of the mountains of garbage generated in cities is collected and safely disposed of..."

"The urban population of developing countries, now 1.3 billion, is expected to increase by another billion people in the next 15 years."

Half of them live in slums and shanty-towns, he said.

Draper spoke at the third international shelter conference.

He announced that next month his office will publish its first annual human development report. In addition to decentralisation, it will urge the need to maintain the environment and provide shelter and basic services for the poorest people.

He emphasised an "enabling strategy" for poor city-dwellers based on private ownership. They must be sure they can hold their property and be able to get credit, he said.

"Low cost building materials, access to water and sanitation, and low-interest loans are much more valuable to struggling families than promises from the government housing authority," he went on.

"If given the right kind of help, people are able and willing to build their own homes. If necessary, they will help collect garbage and build roads. And they will pay for water and sanitation, if services are reliable."

He cited a community housing project in Buenos Aires, built over a former garbage dump, where local people worked together to build drains and sidewalks. Before they did that, they often had to walk through mud and ankle deep.

Draper, former head of the U.S. government's Export-Import Bank, praised a small cooperative loan fund in Buenos Aires, capital of the African republic of Burundi. It was similar to another in Bangladesh, he added.

Decision strengthens Kaifu's power

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's success in avoiding new U.S. trade sanctions strengthens his shaky hold on power but commits him to possibly painful economic reforms, political analysts say.

U.S. President George Bush announced on Friday that the United States would not target Japan this year as a nation presenting unfair obstacles to American trade. He cited recent Japanese moves to open its markets to foreign goods.

"Bush sent a rescue boat Kaifu," said widely quoted political commentators Kiyoshi Iijima. "Kaifu will be able to remain in power as long as he keeps good and sound relations with the Bush administration."

But Iijima added: "Bush's decision has set Kaifu to work harder on Japan's structural reforms."

Kaifu has waged an energetic campaign within his faction-ridden Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to prevent simmering trade disputes with the United States from boiling into a trade war.

Earlier this month Japan promised to reform practices in six key business and trade areas which Washington says are "structural impediments" to foreign trade and investment, such as a law restricting the opening of big department stores.

In separate talks, Japan agreed to open its markets for satellites, supercomputers and wood products.

Kaifu told the Japanese people after the reforms were announced: "The implementa-

New York stocks end sharply lower

NEW YORK (R) — Wall Street wilted on Friday under fresh signs that U.S. inflation is rising sharply, sending stock prices sharply lower.

The Dow Jones industrial average lost 31.53 points, or 1.2 per cent, to 2,645.05. The 30-share index slid 50.90 points for the week.

In the broader market, 1,071 stocks fell while only 395 rose. Volume on the New York Stock Exchange was a light 130.6 million shares, compared with 141.3 million Thursday.

A rise in prices signalled in Friday's government report on first-quarter economic activity spurred fears the Federal Reserve might force interest rates higher to curb credit and tame inflation.

Franc-based trading bloc takes shape

LIBREVILLE, Gabon (AP) — Finance ministers and central bank governors from 15 countries called Friday for new cooperation to free up movement of goods, services and capital.

The officials from African nations in the so-called Franc Zone, whose currencies are based on the French franc, said a common market-type structure could boost their economic performance.

French Economics Minister Pierre Bérégovoy said relaxed trade barriers would get the full support of France, calling increased solidarity among the 14 African countries "essential."

The African countries participating in the semi-annual conference are linked to the franc at a fixed exchange rate, which has enhanced monetary stability in the group for four decades.

Bérégovoy said solidarity in the exchange rate should be extended to unifying markets, opening new avenues for growth.

The French finance minister stressed that the 50-1 ratio of the group's common currency, the African Financial Community (CFA) franc, to the French franc should remain unchanged.

The same ratio has been in effect since the Franc Zone was created in 1948.

The fixed rate keeps the CFA franc readily convertible, Bérégovoy said inspiring confidence in those contemplating investment in the Franc Zone countries of West Africa.

Before they can create a free-trade zone, Bérégovoy said the countries need to harmonise and streamline customs and fiscal procedures. Failure to do so could brake trade and investment.

In his address to open the conference, Gabonese President Omar Bongo urged an easing of the international debt burden on middle-income countries. Ministers from the other participating nations backed his call.

Bonn expects E. German states to pay debt

BONN (R) — West Germany expects the five states which make up East Germany to slash spending to be able to pay off the country's public debt after German unification.

Foreign debt alone has been estimated at \$18 billion and this and other debts should be divided between the states according to a draft treaty for monetary union drawn up in Bonn.

The draft, made available to Reuters on Saturday, says the states should improve their finances by slashing spending and subsidies to public services.

The states, including Saxony and Neckernburg, were dissolved by East Germany's former Communist government but are expected to be resurrected in time for state elections due in November.

The draft, to be presented to unity talks between the two Germanys, says Bonn should give the states cash credits guaranteed by the West German central bank or Bundesbank of up to 800 million marks (\$473 million) to help them out.

It also pledges grants for designated purposes from Bonn's federal budget during a transitional period to prop up East German finances.

Bonn governing party sources quoted West German Finance Minister Theo Weigel as saying this week that East Germany's foreign debt alone stood at \$18 billion but a thorough examination of the books could cause this sum to rise.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl told East German television on Friday that Bonn's draft treaty represented the limits of what West Germany could afford.

"But I am ready to discuss other proposals made by the East German government," he said.

Czechoslovakia unfolds privatisation programme

WASHINGTON — By Sunday, Czechoslovakia's new democratic government hopes to be giving away shares in state industry being converted to private ownership, says the country's finance minister.

The planned distribution is part of a swift transition from Communist to capitalist economy prescribed by Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus.

Klaus said the rapid transformation was vital for evading a "reform trap" that he said has ensnared the Soviet economy.

"Partial reform of a distorted economy... is much worse than a non-reform," and a more cautious approach could lead "very soon to chaotic disintegration of the economy, as we see in the Soviet economy just now," Klaus said Thursday.

The 49-year-old economist told reporters he is very pessimistic about economic prospects of the Soviet Union, on which Czechoslovakia depends for 100 per cent of its petroleum.

"Economic collapse... is a danger," he said.

In addition to free distribution of economic shares to the public, Czechoslovakia's transition will include price decontrol, eventual ending of import and foreign exchange controls, and currency devaluation. It is hoped will lead to convertibility by the end of the year, Klaus said.

One reason the Soviet Union fell into a "reform trap," Klaus said, is that its decentralising of economic decisions "without parallel changes in the basics of the system," such as privatisation of property and freeing of prices, "brings more problems than solutions. This is quite clear, especially in the Soviet case."

To avert what he called "chaotic privatisation" of Czechoslovak enterprises by foreign investors through joint ventures, Klaus said the government within a few months would distribute free to all adults on an equal basis vouchers exchangeable for goods or shares of industries to be privatised.

The government three weeks ago established a special board for temporary administration of state property and its privatisation, and final privatisation proposals should be ready by the June 8 national election, Klaus said.

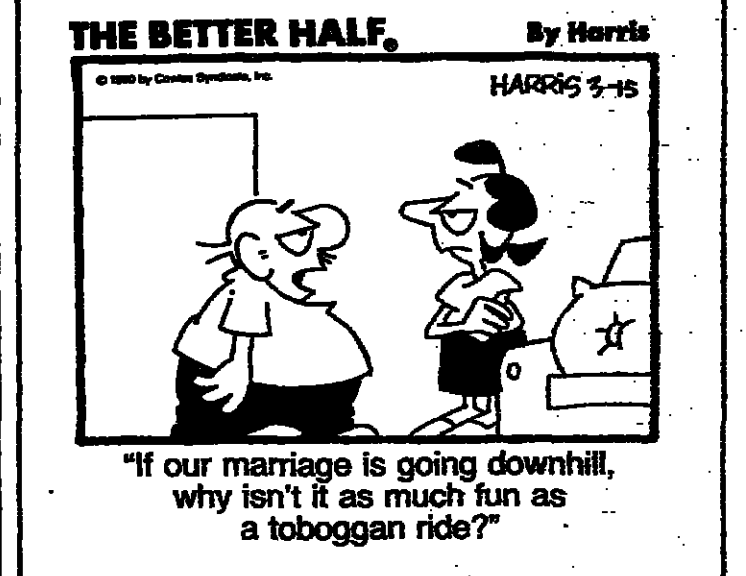
Public utilities, making up 30 per cent to 40 per cent of government enterprises, would be turned over to state-owned corporations and excluded from privatisation.

The free vouchers could not be bought or sold for money, but combined and traded for goods or shares of future joint stock companies, according to public estimates of company values.

"So if you decide to buy Pilsener Urquell brewery shares instead of the famous Skoda works in the same town of Pizen, you demonstrate preferences and somehow evaluate the relative value of the capital assets of those firms," Klaus said.

"Some will sell and some will buy," and from equality at the start, some will fare better than others and become the entrepreneurs of the new capitalist economy, he continued.

Eventually, a stock market would be created in which foreign investors will be allowed to participate, Klaus added.



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BYBOH
DARNB
MIRBLE
HETTER

WHAT THAT FAMOUS WRITER FOUND MOST ABSORBING.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumble: GAUGE CABLE GRUBBY BIGAMY
Answer: What those big-spending tourists returned with — "BRAG" & BAGGAGE

THE Daily Crossword by Betty Jorgensen

ACROSS
1 Day in a pole
5 "Thy rod and thy..."
10 Servant
14 Czech city
15 Hermit
16 MP's quarry
17 Word
18 Coastal or rural
19 Tab
20 Mean
21 Mean
22 June bug
23 Best
24 Stone prot.
25 Gr. city
26 Buddhist language
27 Sea bird
28 Printing term
29 Stock items
30 Color
31 Word with two meanings
41 Scrooge's word
44 Warnings
45 Served a super serve
46 Linguistic unit suff.
50 Fuse
51 "Widow" composer
52 Rent
54 Myotic
57 After constellation
58 Mean
59 Mean
60 Blue-pencil
62 Shift
65 Dislike
67 Air duct
68 Sp. town
69 Thought
70 Hance
71 Hackman and Kelly
72 Sea bird

DOWN
1 Chase
2 Office in charge
3 Turned upside down
4 Tourist a.g.
5 E. county
6 Darkroom chemical
7 Insect
8 Chemist de-
9 Hero
10 Helicopters
11 Anticipated
12 Woodcock
13 Fishhead
14 Barley beard
15 Full of sound
16 Bird
17 Cretaceous's end
18 Number and
19 Zoom for one
20 E. town
21 Chess
22 Devoured
23 A West

Yesterday's Puzzle Solver:
41 Take as true
42 Connector
43 Warning up
44 Traveisty
45 Before
46 Teaseler
47 Flap-de-
48 First fight
49 A minute
50 Phrygian King
51 Head
52 Bend forth
53 Contraption
54 Cotton or silk

Greece hikes prices

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — The newly-elected government announced drastic price rises, higher indirect taxes, and unlinked state employees wages from inflation, within hours after parliament gave the conservatives a mandate to tackle the ailing economy Friday.

The measures are intended to increase state income by 400 billion drachmas (\$2.4 billion) this year but will increase the annual inflation rate by 4 per cent, National Economy Minister George Souflias told journalists. Inflation touched 17.8 per cent in March.

"We have reached a dead end," Souflias said. "Of every 100 drachmas the state spends it has to borrow 40. This has to come to an end."

The public sector deficit is currently estimated at \$15.2 billion.

Premier Constantine Mitsotakis told parliament shortly before winning a vote of confidence that the total public debt would be \$91.4 billion by the end of the year.

The conservatives won elections on April 8, following two inconclusive polls last year after eight years of Socialist govern-

AMMAN LITTLE LEAGUE

Results of baseball games played Friday, April 27, 1990

T-BALL DIVISION

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COACH PITCH DIVISION

Arasex 18 ARC 5
 Fiebi 18 Concent 17
 National Steel Industry 28 AICI 17
 Intercontinental/Epson game postponed

KID PITCH DIVISION

Westinghouse 11 Marriott 7
 NECC 21 Mr. Chips 7
 Danish Dairy 11 Jordan Worsteds Mills 3

SOFTBALL DIVISION

Qaddumi Agriculture 4 NADAS 3
 Second Time Around 18 Volvo 8



In softball action, Mazen Muna hits his first home run of the season for First Time Around.



Mazen Alai of Marriott gets ready to swing.

Soccer star arrested over call-girl racket

GENOA, Italy (R) — Magistrates questioned Uruguay's World Cup soccer striker Carlos Alberto Aguilera in a Genoa jail Saturday after his arrest on charges of involvement in a prostitution racket.

Joined Italian first division club Genova last year, said they would ask for him to be released immediately on provisional liberty. Fellow players were shocked at his arrest and said there must have been a misunderstanding. Uruguayan captain Ygo de Leon, who arrived in Italy with the World Cup squad last week, told reporters: "We know him well and we are convinced that he has nothing to do with this affair. There must have been a misunderstanding."

Lawyers for Aguilera, who

SPORTS IN BRIEF

UAE players fail to catch flight

ABU DHABI (R) — Twelve members of the United Arab Emirates 25-man World Cup football squad have failed to catch a plane for a crucial training session in France, sports officials said Saturday. One official told Reuters: "It was a shock for us and shows some players are just careless and irresponsible." Only two players, brothers Khalil and Mubarak Ghanem, had permission to stay behind briefly for the wedding of a sister and sport officials said they did not know why the others had not turned up. Brazilian coach Carlos Alberto, who flew Thursday to West Germany to watch warm-up matches of World Cup finalists, was described the session in France as crucial. The UAE team finished last in a regional Gulf tournament, going down 6-1 against Kuwait in their last match. It has been hit by injury and has suffered from having three coaches in almost as many months. The semi-official Al Itihad newspaper said players' failure to board the plane was irresponsible and called on the football association to "deal sternly with this negative situation." The UAE will play in the finals, starting in June, in Group D with West Germany, Yugoslavia and Colombia.

Tyson to fight Tillman

NEW YORK (R) — Former world heavyweight champion Mike Tyson will return to the ring for the first time since his stunning loss to James Douglas when he takes on fellow-American Henry Tillman June 16, a spokesman for promoter Don King has said. Tyson is scheduled to go 10 rounds with Tillman at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, spokesman Al Braverman confirmed. He would not disclose the purse for the bout. Tillman, who has a professional record of 20-4, twice beat Tyson when they fought as amateurs. The 37-1 Tyson, previously considered invincible, suffered his only professional loss when he was knocked out by Douglas in one of the 10th round of their Tokyo title fight in February in one of the greatest upsets in boxing history. On the same card another former heavyweight champion, George Foreman, will continue his comeback with a scheduled 10-round fight against Adelson Rodriguez of Brazil. Earlier this month Foreman won his 21st successive fight since his return to the ring after a 10-year layoff with a fourth round knockout of former Tyson sparring partner Mike Jameson.

France set to meet U.S. volleyball league

INGLEWOOD, California (AP) — The first Federation Internationale de Volleyball World Volleyball League begins play Sunday night at the Forum when the United States national team meets France. The teams will play again Monday night at the forum. National teams representing eight countries and four continents are competing in the league for \$1 million in prize money. The league will end with the final four matches July 14-15 in Osaka, Japan. Each team will play 12 matches — six at home and six away — during the six-week season. In its final four home matches, the American team will meet the Italian team May 5 at the forum and May 6 at the San Diego Sports Arena and the team from Brazil June 1 at the San Diego Sports Arena and June 2 at the Forum.

Liverpool clinches title

By Alan Baldwin

LONDON (R) — Liverpool won the English League soccer championship for a record 18th time Saturday thanks to a second half penalty from England winger John Barnes.

Liverpool's 2-1 home win over Queen's Park Rangers put them an insurmountable four points clear of second-placed Aston Villa, who have only one match remaining.

Villa, knowing they had to win at home to Norwich, came from a goal behind to go 3-1 up in an amazing six minute second-half spell but then let in two late goals to draw 3-3.

Barnes, voted English player of the year this week, hit the winner from the spot in the 63rd minute at Anfield.

After the match the Liverpool players did a lap of honour before the delighted 37,000 crowd.

At the bottom of the first division, the relegation tussle between Luton and Sheffield Wednesday was inconclusive as both teams won to keep their survival hopes alive.

Liverpool, who smashed their own record of 17 titles, had been beaten in the league by QPR earlier this season and were shocked to go a goal behind in the shock to go a goal behind in the 15th minute.

A corner was headed on by Alan McDonald to striker Roy Wegerle, who side-footed home despite Welsh international striker Ian Rush's desperate attempt to kick the ball off the line.

In the 21st minute, Liverpool had to bring on Ray Houghton for the injured left-back David Burrows.

Rush finally brought Liverpool back into the game with a vengeance in the 40th minute when he forced a right-footed shot past goalkeeper David Seaman at the far post.

It was the Welshman's 25th goal of the season.

Liverpool captain Alan Hansen went off injured in the 56th minute and then in the 63rd, Steve Nicol found space in the left of the area and was brought down by Danny Maddix. Barnes sent Seaman the wrong way for his 25th goal of the season.

At Villa Park, Rael Fox stunned the fans into silence in the 30th minute when he put Norwich ahead with a volley inside the area after poor defensive work by the home defenders.

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NBA Roundup:

Chicago beats Milwaukee, 111-79

CHICAGO (AP) — The Michael Jordan show, co-starring Scottie Pippen, gave the Chicago Bulls a winning start in the NBA playoffs Friday night.

Jordan scored 38 points and Pippen had 17 points, 13 assists and 10 rebounds to lead the Bulls to a 111-79 victory over the Bucks, a team they have managed to handle with ease in recent years.

The victory was an extension of the Bulls' mastery over the Bucks in recent seasons. Chicago held a 4-1 edge in the regular season and has defeated Milwaukee 12 times in their last 13 meetings.

"The first game is very important," Jordan said. "If you lose it, you can't keep the homecourt advantage."

The Bulls broke the game open in the fourth quarter with a 13-2 run that gave them a 96-82 lead with 6:31 left.

"We turned up our defense a notch," Jordan said. "Our fourth quarter defense unleashed everything. We started to rebound and got our transition game going."

Jazz, 113, Suns 96

SALT LAKE CITY — Stomach flu put the brakes on Phoenix guard Kevin Johnson, allowing Utah to pull away in the western conference opener.

Johnson played just nine minutes and was held scoreless. Utah forward Karl Malone, held to 21 points, 10 under his season average, ignited a 9-0 third-quarter surge that carried the Jazz to a 72-58 lead with less than four minutes remaining.



Michael Jordan

After Utah took its largest lead at 103-87 late in the game, Phoenix rallied to within seven behind Mike McGee's two 3-pointers, but failed to score in the final 2:04.

Lakers 101, Rockets 99

INGLEWOOD — James Worthy scored 34 points as the Los Angeles Lakers opened the NBA playoffs by defeating Houston,

Thys back for third WC campaign

by Raf Casert
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — A familiar face is back to try to reverse an unfamiliar spell of bad results, bad play and bad vibes that threaten Belgium in the World Cup.

Guy Thys retired as Belgium's most successful national coach last year. But he is back — wily, wily, he said — after his successor, Walter Meuwens, was fired Feb. 28.

Meuwens' eight months as national coach was punctuated by dismal draws with Luxembourg and Switzerland, a loss to Greece and personality conflicts with and among players.

Belgium hopes Thys' psychology, tactical cunning and almost proverbial luck can heal the damage and produce another upset as in Mexico 1986, when the team finished fourth.

"A great many people expect a repeat, but that is a tall order," Thys said.

Even so, in his 13 years as coach of the Red Devils, Thys never had such a pool of talent at his disposal as he does today. "In intrinsic individual talent, the (current players) are the best, but that does not necessarily

make it the best team," Thys said.

He added that blending veterans and rookies, and creating camaraderie, are vital to Belgium's success in Italy.

"I have to mold them in a mentally tough bloc," he said. Take striker Mark Degryse, 24, a prime example of talent that needs match toughening.

Anderlecht's Degryse has often shown flashes of brilliance, but too often in run-of-the-mill league matches. By contrast, he has remained subdued against most of the top clubs.

During Belgium's recent bad spell, he scored not a single goal and often joined in the collective bumbling. Only goalie Michel Preud'homme has maintained his sterling level of play.

But even if Belgium's brightest perform at their best, they will never have the individual stature of Argentina's Diego Maradona or Marco van Basten of the Netherlands.

This forces Thys to rely again on collective effort, an area that

needs mending. Under Meuwens, the players bickered in public over who was best for what position. Playmaker Enzo Scifo was even suspended for a warmup match when he deemed himself too good for the bench and demanded a spot in the starting lineup.

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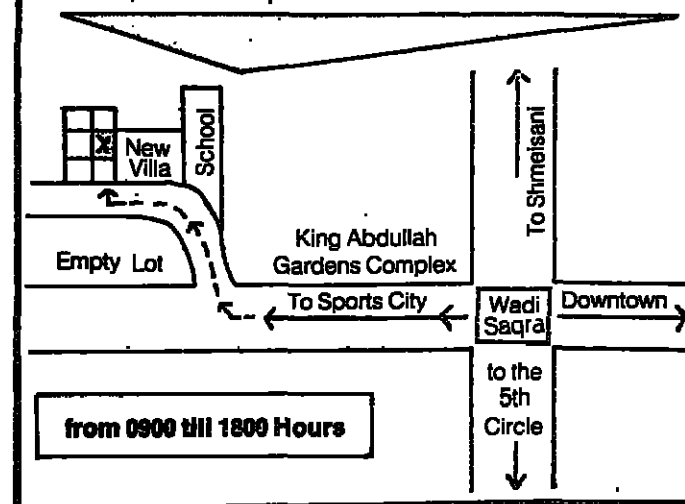
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Performances: 8:30, 8:30, 10:30

Sandinistas escort contras to U.N. designated security zones

SAN RAFAEL, Nicaragua (R) — Turning their back on eight years of fighting, Sandinista troops Friday gave a friendly lift to a group of heavily armed rebels as an accord to end the Nicaraguan civil war which left 30,000 dead apparently began to take hold.

It was not clear whether the surprisingly friendly encounter was an isolated incident, as the estimated 8,000 to 12,000 contra rebels moved through Sandinista territory towards five United Nations security zones.

But it showed that, in at least one sector of the war zone of northern Nicaragua, forces who for years regarded each other as mortal enemies were now reaching for reconciliation.

The encounter took place just outside the tiny town of San Rafael del Norte, a three-hour drive over gravel roads north from the capital, Managua, as 140

contras worked their way to one of the security zones.

Sandinista army Major Roberto Samcan and a contra who called himself Commander Bolivar stood side by side. They explained that United Nations mediators helped organise the operation, in which some 60 Sandinista troops provided security as the rebels marched by in U.S.-provided uniforms carrying assault rifles and grenade launchers.

Samcan, who was not armed, ordered five military trucks to pick up the contras and give them a lift toward La Colina, farther to the north, where a U.N.

peacekeeping force has designated a special security zone for the rebels.

According to an agreement signed a week ago by contra leaders and representatives of new President Violeta Chamorro, the contras are to gather in the five security zones and turn in their arms and disband.

But Wednesday the top contra leader, Commander Franklin, announced that he would turn in his arms — throwing the agreement into question just hours after Chamorro was inaugurated.

Bolivar, who had an AK-47 assault rifle slung over his shoulder, said Friday the contras wanted peace and would comply with the accord.

Since 1982 the U.S.-backed contras fought the leftist Sandinista government that took power after toppling the right-wing Somoza dictatorship in 1979.

Asked when the disarmament, which has been scheduled to take place between April 25 and June 10, might begin, Bolivar said, "That has to be decided by the two armies. Our chief of staff, Commander Franklin, (and) their chief, Humberto Ortega, have to decide along with Mrs. Chamorro."

Chamorro caused a furore when she said Sandinista army chief General Humberto Ortega, the brother of former President Daniel Ortega, would remain in his post.

While the controversy raged in Managua Friday, the decision seemed not to stop cordial treatment between contra and Sandinista officers in San Rafael.

"That is an issue that will be taken care of through the process of negotiation," said Major Samcan. He said talks were ongoing in all five contra security zones.

Yeltsin calls Gorbachev handling of Lithuanian crisis 'immoral'

LONDON (AP) — Maverick Soviet politician Boris Yeltsin has said that Mikhail Gorbachev's handling of the Lithuanian independence crisis is immoral.

"I would consider it immoral to declare an economic blockade in regard to one of our republics," he said. "Even if it were a foreign country, Gorbachev wouldn't have behaved in that way because people would have sat at the negotiating table and would have sought a way for political settlement."

Yeltsin said he had signed a letter to Gorbachev and Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis urging them to negotiate. The letter urged Landsbergis to suspend temporarily Lithuania's March 11 declaration of independence and Gorbachev to lift the decree ordering the economic blockade.

"As far as I'm aware, Landsbergis seems to be inclined to treat this idea positively, but it is now up to Gorbachev," he told a news conference during a visit to

London to promote his autobiography: *Against the Grain*.

Yeltsin, a deputy in Supreme Soviet who recently won a seat in the Russian Federation parliament, said Gorbachev's economic programme introduced four months ago had failed and the Soviet leader was planning to present "a much more radical programme" on May 12.

"I must say that in civilised countries, a government isn't normally given a chance to present a second programme. The governments in civilised countries like the United Kingdom would have to resign. But the problem with us is that we don't have a political tradition of resignation of a government," he said.

If this new economic programme fails to improve the lives of Soviet citizens, Yeltsin warned that there could be a "revolutionary rise from the grass roots" this year.

"I think we haven't had such a state in our economy for several decades. It is a critical situation."

Today... in terms of international market we are almost bankrupt," he said.

The democratic faction of the Communist Party, which Yeltsin leads, wants complete independence for state-owned enterprises and the "de-ideologisation" of the economy," he said.

Yeltsin said he would consider forming a separate party if the Communist Party fails to undertake reforms at the upcoming 28th party congress and creates "a schism."

If the party does agree to major reforms, he said, the democratic group will remain as a faction within the party.

But he said: "I firmly believe we shouldn't go it alone before the 28th congress of the Communist Party."

Yeltsin, originally scheduled to visit Britain in early March, arrived Friday morning and held talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher which he described as "full of content and meeting."

Quake toll rises to 126 in China

PEKING (AP) — The death toll from an earthquake that razed more than 1,000 homes in a distant outback of central China has risen to 126, the State Seismology Bureau said Saturday.

A bureau official who identified himself only as Li said the Thursday evening quake, which measured a powerful 6.9 on the Richter Scale, had injured 160. He said the bureau had recorded 700 aftershocks since the quake slammed the Hainan Tibetan autonomous prefecture of Qinghai province at 6:37 p.m. (0937 GMT) Thursday.

It was not clear if the death toll would continue to rise, but state television videotape of the disaster Friday evening showed soldiers, equipped with only shovels, scraping through large piles of rubble, the devastated remains of homes.

The mud and brick structures appearing on the videotape had been destroyed by the tremor.

Hundreds of people were shown sleeping on the ground out in the open, wrapped in heavy blankets. The report said 5,000 had been left homeless.

The disaster struck a desolate, wind-swept plateau thought to be populated mainly by poor Tibetan herdsmen and peasants.

Qinghai, one of China's largest and least populated provinces, is also home to Muslim Hui, Kazakhs, Mongolians and many prisons and labour camps.

The TV report said 500 People's Liberation Army troops and workers from both army and provincial hospitals had rushed to the stricken area.

Rescue teams were being led by provincial Governor Wu Chengzhi and provincial Communist Party Secretary Tien Chengping.

The quake, centred about 110 kilometres southwest of the provincial capital of Xining, opened large cracks in roads and caused

landslides at the Longyangxia Reservoir on the upper reaches of the Yellow River.

The walls of buildings at a hydropower station on the reservoir were cracked, but the dam did not appear in danger, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

The initial tremor was felt in Xining and in the city of Lanzhou, 300 kilometres to the east.

The far western Chinese province of Xinjiang was hit by a quake measuring 6.4 on April 19. Some 1,300 homes were damaged, but only two people were injured.

Thursday's quake was the most deadly since November 1988, when a quake measuring 7.6 on the Richter Scale killed 730 in the southwest province of Sichuan.

The most devastating tremor in recent years in this quake-prone nation came in 1976, when 240,000 were killed in the north-east city of Tangshan.

Thatcher reportedly reviewing new tax

LONDON (AP) — News reports Saturday said the government is reviewing the unpopular new tax that sparked a riot in London last month and has gravely undermined support for Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Party.

The Times of London, which often backs the Conservatives, quoted unnamed sources at Mrs. Thatcher's Downing Street office as saying that legislation to amend the new tax could be introduced later this year. The tax funds local councils' spending and came into force on April 1.

The government calls the new tax the community charge. But the Socialist opposition Labour Party and others have dubbed it the poll tax after a similar per capita tax with the same name that sparked a peasants' revolt in 1381.

The paper quoted the sources as saying that Mrs. Thatcher's parliamentary private secretary Mark Lennox-Boyd told Tory legislators at the private meeting this week that if a review of the tax showed the need for legislation, it would be introduced.

But it said the sources denied reports that Mrs. Thatcher had insisted that proposed legislation should be published by July.

Another London paper, the Independent, reported: "Legislation to limit increases in poll tax charges to the rate of inflation (currently at an annual rate of 8.1 per cent), coupled with an injection of £4 billion (£6.5 billion) to ease the burdens of councils, emerged as the front runner."

But it said government ministers appeared confused about the prime minister's intentions. Its headline read: "Government in turmoil over poll tax plans."

The liberal paper the Guardian reported: "Ministers have fallen out over whether legislation will be introduced."

The new tax is cited as the main cause of the massive slump in Tory support. A national opinion poll survey published in the Independent Friday showed support for Labour at 54 per cent against 29 per cent for the Tories. The polls were based on interviews with 1,570 voters. No margin of error was stated.

Thousands protest in South Korea after police break shipyard strike

ULSAN, South Korea (R) — Thousands of workers from the giant Hyundai group, some hurling petrol bombs and rocks, fought riot police who had stormed South Korea's largest shipyard Saturday to smash a strike.

Ten thousand workers from at least four Hyundai companies took to the streets of Ulsan to show their anger at the police assault on the Hyundai Heavy Industries shipyard, where strikers had paralysed production for three days.

Thousands of police in full riot gear burst into the yard in the southeastern port at dawn after using a bulldozer to clear steel and wooden barricades from the gate and main road.

Most of the 3,000 strikers fled as police fired repeated volleys of tear gas. They hurled iron bolts and nuts as they escaped from

the searing gas. Hyundai workers denounced the police action to evict the strikers as "unbearable use of official force."

They set fire to two police buses and punctured the tyres of other police vans, defying orders to disperse from police, who unleashed a barrage of tear gas grenades.

"The government is trying to repress the labour movement by mobilising police forces," a union leader at Hyundai Motor Company said.

Police arrested 284 union workers in the yard, where the wildcat strike was called to back demands for the release of arrested union leaders.

One hundred militants climbed on top of a towering crane on a dry-dock and hurled down iron bolts and metal plates to prevent

police approaching. A union spokesman said earlier the militants had food supplies and would hold out.

"They have enough materials to survive for over a month," he said.

Smoke shrouded the yard after the workers used petrol bombs to burn many of the more than 100 tents in which they kept overnight vigils.

South Korea's official Yonhap news agency said all workers at eight Hyundai companies took their monthly day off at the same time Saturday.

Police helicopters dropped tens of thousands of leaflets around the yard, saying their operation was necessary because the strike hampered stability in the region and threatened to cause economic difficulties for the whole country.

Colombia gives presidential candidates TV time to cut risk

BOGOTA (Agencies) — Colombia's presidential candidates will do more campaigning on radio and television to cut the risk of being killed on the campaign trail.

Leftist presidential candidate Carlos Pizarro was shot dead Thursday and President Virgilio Barco said in a televised address Friday night that the police elite corps, formed to fight guerrillas and drug-traffickers, would be doubled in size.

"The government considers it necessary to reduce to the minimum the risk for each candidate. But faced with these totally irrational methods, more bodyguards, more bulletproof vests, more practical security measures might help but they are not enough," he said.

"So that the campaign can continue in better conditions... the government has an interest in increasing still further television time for the presidential candidates," Barco said, adding that the candidates would also be given free radio time.

Pizarro, 38, who transformed his M-19 guerrilla movement into a political party only last month,

was shot dead on board an airliner by a 21-year-old assassin, who was also killed.

The press and opposition politicians have demanded tough action in response.

Pizarro, shot after leaving Bogota on a campaign trip, was the third candidate for the May 27 election to be assassinated in Colombia in eight months. The government blamed drug barons, who have waged an eight-month war on the state, for killing the other two candidates.

Barco did not accuse anybody of murdering Pizarro but hinted there was a political motive. Judicial police chief Colonel Oscar Pelaez told television news Friday there was no doubt Pablo Escobar, reputed chief of the Medellin cocaine cartel, was responsible for Pizarro's murder.

Cesar Gaviria, the ruling Liberal Party's presidential candidate, said in a television broadcast that paramilitary groups in the pay of drug barons killed him.

But the drug barons issued a statement Friday condemning Pizarro's murder and saying he could not have been killed without official involvement.

"We reject the murder of Pizarro, friend of dialogue with us, enemy of extradition and symbol of peace," they said.

Pizarro's brother Eduardo said he believed "sectors of the state" were to blame for the murder. "Thousands of people have filed through the capitol building in Bogota to pay their last respects to Pizarro."

Meanwhile, about 100 would-be passengers refused to board an airliner Friday when they discovered that a leftist congresswoman was to be among them with her 25 bodyguards, radio reports said.

Ticket holders in the Caribbean coast city of Barranquilla refused to board the Boeing 727 of the Colombian airline Avianca, the radio chains Caracol and RCN said.

The leftist congresswoman on Friday's Avianca flight from Barranquilla was Vera Grava, a long-time member of the April 19 movement guerrilla group.

Pizarro was the commander of the M-19. When the guerrilla group disbanded six weeks ago, Grava ran for congress and was elected.

Japan hands over hijacker to China

TOKYO (R) — A man who hijacked a Chinese airliner to Japan last December to escape from Communist rule was delivered to Chinese officials Saturday and flown back to Peking despite desperate appeals by lawyers.

Japanese authorities handed Zhang Zhenhai over to Chinese officials at a detention centre in Tokyo after the Tokyo High Court ruled he was not a political refugee and the justice minister backed the decision.

The Chinese officials drove Zhang away from the heavily-guarded detention centre in a dark green van through a large crowd of his supporters and members of radical groups screaming for his release.

At Tokyo's Narita Airport, they led the 36-year-old hijacker onto a plane for Peking. He had been severely injured when the crew of the hijacked plane pushed him out of a door onto the tarmac and two Chinese officials had to help him up the aircraft steps. He looked composed but tired.

Zhang seized control of the Chinese airliner after it left Peking bound for San Francisco on Dec. 16 and forced it to land in Fukuoka, western Japan. His wife and child were with him but returned to China with the plane's other passengers after Zhang was injured and arrested.

Zhang's lawyers continued legal appeals on his behalf up to the last minute.

Peru candidate pledges policies to favour the poor

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Presidential candidate Mario Vargas Llosa broke a long silence Friday with an attack on opponent Alberto Fujimori and a promise to pursue economic policies that would help the poor.

In a nationally televised speech, Vargas Llosa said his proposals for an economic "shock" programme "were not understood by many Peruvians. He promised to explain them more clearly in the weeks leading up to a runoff election likely to take place June 3.

His weaker than expected showing in first-round elections on April 8 was "a good lesson, and I hope to profit from it," he said.

Vargas Llosa, a novelist, won 32 per cent of the April 8 vote but was nearly beaten by Fujimori, a virtual political unknown, who took 30 per cent. Recent polls show Vargas Llosa losing the runoff to Fujimori by 51 to 38 per cent.

Vargas Llosa's economic plan calls for privatisation of Peru's huge state enterprises, elimination of agricultural and industrial subsidies, and drastic cuts in import and export tariffs.

In his speech, he attacked the centrist Fujimori — an agricultural engineer who has never held political office — for inexperience and lack of a political platform.

Fujimori had promised to produce a platform 10 days ago, but did not do so.

Fujimori is "not in a condition to confront the grave threat president (Alan) Garcia will leave as the inheritance of the next government," Vargas Llosa said.

"The present situation is a time bomb set to explode at the beginning of the next term," he added.

Both Vargas Llosa and Fujimori have been in near seclusion since the April 8 election.

Vargas Llosa previously had not publicly discussed the first-round results or attacked Fujimori.

Vargas Llosa, who in the past two weeks has met numerous times with leaders of his Democratic Front Coalition, faulted the way his economic plan was presented to voters before the first-round balloting.

"This time I will make every effort to show the benefits my plan will bring to Peruvians, and above all to the poor," he said.

The novelist, portrayed by Peru's leftist parties as the "candidate of the rich" made an effort to counter that image.

"I decided to go into politics to work for the humble and the poor, and not for the rich," he said, adding that he has prepared measures to "protect poor Peruvians from the effects of his economic plan."

Following his disappointing showing in the April 8 election, Vargas Llosa said, he considered dropping out of the race. He has said he was persuaded to continue by Democratic Front colleagues, as well as by a constitutional requirement that he take part in the runoff.

In his speech Friday, he gave two other reasons for remaining in the race: "because I love my country and because Peru needs true change."

Whoever is elected president will face huge problems, including hyperinflation and a rapidly shrinking economy.

In addition, Shining Path rebels are continuing a war against the democratic government that has claimed more than 18,000 lives in the past decade. The Maoist rebels control much of Peru's mountains and jungles, and have sharply restricted the flow of food and resources out of those areas, a situation exacerbated in recent months by severe drought.

Jackson: U.S. policy hurts Angola, Namibia

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The Rev. Jesse Jackson said Friday that the United States is making a grave mistake in assisting rebels fighting Angola's leftist government and is depriving Namibia of needed help.

He called for a Marshall Plan for Namibia and southern Africa. The civil rights leader and politician said newly independent Namibia is getting \$10 million in U.S. assistance, compared to \$500 million for Poland. The Marshall Plan, first urged in 1947 by then-Secretary of State George C. Marshall, fostered European economic recovery after World War II through enormous infusions of U.S. aid.

Jackson spoke during a news conference sponsored by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) dealing with Namibia's achieving independence this month from South Africa.

Jackson said "troublesome signs" were emerging in U.S.-southern African policy. He called it "incoherent."

Soviets seek help to deal with post-Chernobyl problems

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Soviet parliamentary delegation has made an urgent appeal to the world for help in dealing with towering medical problems four years after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

Severe shortages exist in medical equipment, radiological and other scientific laboratories, radiation detectors, housing for scores of thousands of relocated people and even baby food, the five-man delegation said at a news conference at the Soviet Embassy.

"The history of mankind never knew an ecological catastrophe, which is so disastrous and having unknown consequences for the nature, health and life of the present and future generations," the delegation said, relaying an appeal made originally by officials of the Ukraine and endorsed this week by the Supreme Soviet, the Soviet legislature.

Yuri Shcherbak, chairman of the Ecology Subcommittee of the Supreme Soviet and a medical doctor, said it took a political struggle to open secret medical records and uncover the true extent of the damage caused by the radiation which poured from the Chernobyl reactor.

The accident, on April 26, 1986, began with a fire in one of four 1,900 megawatt reactors followed by a core meltdown and an

explosion which sent huge quantities of radiation into the atmosphere.

Shcherbak said thyroid disorders are beginning to appear along with the first cases of leukemia and cancer, including thyroid cancer in infants.

He said serious medical effects are now expected to last dozens of years and perhaps centuries. "Chernobyl is the gravest warning to all humankind — the warning that the development of super technology systems may lead to great damage and perhaps a threat to all living things on Earth," he said.

Kakimbek Salykov, chairman of the delegation, said deaths attributed to Chernobyl, originally set at 30, now have reached at least 300 and that some 150,000 people show some effects of radiation poisoning.

But he said the true extent of medical damage may never be known because a shroud of secrecy was placed on data after the accident and no statistics were compiled on the effects of radiation on the 600,000 persons who took part in the initial cleanup.

He said that before the accident, the death rate among the 600 mostly younger persons who staffed the Chernobyl reactor was quite low.

"After 1986, the death rate increased tenfold" and included

multiple deaths from cancer, he said.

Shcherbak said 1.5 million people "got a great dose of radiation" and said the leukemia rate in the Kiev area is 2.6 times to 3.8 times greater than before the accident.

"Thirteen thousand persons must be relocated as soon as possible," he said.

Soviet Ambassador Yuri Dubinin said that when the effects on other Soviet republics are taken into account, some 4 million people may have been exposed to excessive levels of radiation.

The delegation released other statistics:

— 12.5 million acres of farmland and 1.5 million acres of forests in the Ukraine alone were affected by contamination.

— The contaminated area of the Ukraine contained more than 1,600 towns and villages with more than 1.5 million inhabitants.

— More than 90,000 people have been resettled from the contaminated zones to 101 newly built villages in unaffected areas and thousands more will be soon.

The delegation said that while radiation levels have been lowered and the situation contained, much remains to be done in evacuating people from danger areas, resettling scores of

thousands of people, continuing the cleanup and conducting radio-biological and medical research.

Priorities, it said, include housing resettled people and finding them jobs, providing maternal and child health care and securing radiation-free food products and water.

Several delegates declared that the aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster and the initial tendency of the Kremlin to underestimate its scope and scale has placed Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev under intense political pressure.

"In general I must say that there are three sets of problems — environmental, economic and ethnic — that are tearing our country apart, and they show that the central government is unable to cope with the situation," said Aleksai Yablokov, deputy chairman of the Ecology Committee of the Supreme Soviet.

The chairman of the Soviet parliamentary delegation said he will try to find out which Soviet official rejected offers of international aid after the 1986 explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear reactor.

"I know there were offers of help from foreign organisations, but they were turned down," said Salykov.

"We are going to investigate

who was the person who ruled that such offers be turned down," he said.

Salykov contrasted the aftermath of Chernobyl to the earthquake that devastated large sections of Soviet Armenia on Dec. 7, 1988, and triggered an outpouring of aid from around the world.

He said he believes the difference in the official attitude was caused by the fact that Chernobyl occurred at the beginning of Gorbachev's policy of glasnost, or openness.

"The earthquake occurred when the policies of openness and reform were quite well developed," he said. "So all offers were accepted."

Lev Kuznetsov, a member of the delegation, said it is now clear that in the case of Chernobyl, "the assistance required from the world community will be required for a long period of time."

"It is very sad for us that it is four years after the catastrophe that we parliamentarians have to talk to you like that," he said.

As to the Chernobyl reactor, it is considered obsolete and "accident prone" and will be shut down permanently either this year or in 1991, said Shcherbak.

"But it will not be closed today or tomorrow," he said. "Very great preparatory work is needed."

Cry Freedom reopens quietly in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Times are changing in South Africa. When the anti-apartheid movie *Cry Freedom* appeared in 1988, it was greeted by a storm of controversy, two bomb blasts and a police order confiscating the film hours after it opened.

On Friday, the film reopened without fanfare. It began showing at more than 40 cinemas nationwide to moderate-sized crowds and no incidents, according to police, theatre managers and the film's distributor, United International Pictures. "People have accepted changes," said Dave de Villiers, general manager of Ster-Kinekor Theatres in Johannesburg and surrounding areas. "*Cry Freedom* opened like an ordinary movie and we expect it will do decent business. It's not a controversial blockbuster like it was two years ago."

The film is about black activist Steve Biko, who died in police custody in 1977, and Donald Woods, a white newspaper editor who had befriended him. It is based on two books by Woods and was directed by Sir Richard Attenborough.

Liz Taylor removed from intensive care

LOS ANGELES (R) — Elizabeth Taylor is responding well to treatment for pneumonia and has been moved from an intensive care unit at St. John's Hospital to a private room, hospital officials said Friday. The 58-year-old actress was said by her doctors to have been close to death last weekend, but the officials said she is better. "Her doctors are pleased with her progress," one hospital official added.

Taylor entered the Los Angeles hospital 11 days ago and is expected to remain there for at least another week, the officials said. Taylor, who has appeared in more than 50 films and has been married seven times, almost died of pneumonia in 1961. Over the years she has undergone 19 operations for back pain. She has also been treated for dependence on prescription drugs.

Renoir work stolen from gallery in Japan

TOKYO (AP) — A small oil painting by French painter Pierre-Auguste Renoir valued at about 25 million yen (\$158,000) has been stolen from a gallery in Nagoya, central Japan, police said Friday. Although the painting's official title was not immediately available, an English translation of its Japanese title reads "young girl's head." It was painted by the great French artist in 1908.